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Dockworkers Union strikes and blockades leads to import restrictions

20 000 containers moves in and out of Swedish ports per week. About 10 000 of these flow through APM Terminals Gothenburg. The ongoing labor blockades caused by Swedish Dockworkers Union combined with winter storms in Northern Europe earlier in January, has packed the container terminal with cargo. APM Terminals Gothenburg is working to reduce the yard density, and warn that it may result in lack of certain import products into stores in Sweden, since import containers may need re-routed before reaching destinations in Sweden.

The overtime blockade reduces the capacity of the terminal with around 3,000 containers weekly, something that effects not only the export industry but also imports to Sweden. Starting next week the terminal is forced to limit import containers, to be able to dispatch export cargo already inside the terminal. Import limits may be noticed in the stores shelves and within the Swedish Production Industries waiting for import goods to arrive. Since other Swedish ports are already near full capacity, there are no options to substitute the present reduced capacity of Gothenburg's container terminal.

APM Terminals Gothenburg wants to offer customers a fast and flexible service, through engaged employees. APM Terminals Gothenburg follows all Swedish laws and regulations and have a Collective Bargaining Agreement in place. APM Terminals Gothenburg have accepted the proposal from the Swedish Mediation Authority. Despite all efforts, Swedish Dockworkers Union have legal rights to escalate the conflict at port of Gothenburg, which will have severe consequences for the Swedish Industry and businesses for a long period.

- We at APM Terminals are concerned how this effects Swedish trade and industries but also the Swedish people. We encourages the Government to act on the issue of companies with a CBA in place that suffers from strikes and blockades seriously affecting Sweden, until solved, says Henrik Kristensen CEO at APM Terminals Gothenburg.

For more information:

Henrik Kristensen
VD APM Terminals

Henrik.kristensen@apmterminals.com