



The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE

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LOCAL WORKERS LEARN THE ROPES AT 10th ANNUAL RO/RO RODEO

Event brings cargo handlers, Ro/Ro manufacturers, steamship lines and gigantic, big-ticket Ro/Ro equipment together for training experience

BALTIMORE, MD – If the birds are singing, the flowers blooming and the rumble of construction/farm equipment fill the air, then it must be Ro/Ro Rodeo time at Maryland’s Port of Baltimore.

More than 200 new workers at Maryland’s Port of Baltimore (MPOB) will participate on May 16th and 17th in the 10th annual Ro/Ro Rodeo, a driver training exercise at the Dundalk Marine Terminal. For the two days, members of the International Longshoreman’s Association (ILA) Local 333 will receive hands-on training in maneuvering and operating the variety of Roll-On/Roll-Off (Ro/Ro) cargo that comes into the MPOB. This event is sponsored by the Steamship Trade Association, Maryland Port Administration and the ILA.

“This annual event is the cornerstone of the Port’s White-Glove handling and superior service,” said MPA Executive Director Brooks Royster. “Maryland’s Port of Baltimore has established a reputation for quality of care for customer cargo unlike any other port in the country.”

In addition to staff from the MPA, ILA and STA, leading Ro/Ro manufacturers also will participate in the event by explaining operating procedures and answering questions about the newest vehicles. To gain a better knowledge of safe handling techniques, as well as, changes and upgrades to existing and new equipment, ILA members will participate in a variety of exercises, including lashing, auto handling and an equipment training course. This year’s Rodeo will showcase tractors, backhoes, combines and other heavy equipment from AGCO, Case New Holland, Challenger, Fendt, Ingersoll-Rand, John Deere, JLG Industries, Landini, Massey Ferguson, McCormick, Valtra, Volvo Construction, Wirtgen America, Mercedes-Benz and Chrysler/Jeep.

For the last decade, Maryland’s Port of Baltimore has remained the dominant Ro/Ro port on the East Coast – with nearly 50 percent of the market share. The Ro/Ro Rodeo was developed as a spin-off of the Port’s Total Quality Program to ensure the safest handling of customer Ro/Ro cargo. The MPA continues to see growth in the Ro/Ro field and has recently added additional carriers and services to its list of customers.

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