



The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE

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HI-HO RO/RO RODEO!

13th Annual Event at Port of Baltimore Brings Cargo Handlers, Manufacturers, Steamship Lines and Gigantic, Big-Ticket Ro/Ro Equipment Together for Training

BALTIMORE, MD – It's time again to bring out the big machinery at the Port of Baltimore's 13th annual Ro/Ro (Roll On/ Roll Off) Rodeo.

More than 200 longshoremen and women will participate May 19th and May 20th in these driver training exercises at the Port's Dundalk Marine Terminal. Members of the International Longshoreman's Association (ILA) Local 333 will receive hands-on lessons from farm and construction equipment manufacturers and car makers from throughout the country. This event is sponsored by the Maryland Port Administration (MPA), Steamship Trade Association, and the ILA.

This year's Rodeo will showcase tractors, backhoes, combines and other heavy equipment from AGCO, Case New Holland, John Deere, JLG Industries and Krone North America. Individuals will also be trained on how to properly lash down an automobile on a simulated part of a ship. Auto manufacturers participating include Mercedes, Ford, Subaru, and Porsche.

"The Ro/Ro Rodeo is one of the main cornerstones of the Port of Baltimore's reputation for excellent cargo handling and superior service," said MPA Executive Director James J. White. "The Port of Baltimore is the leader in quality care for customer Ro/Ro cargo throughout the international maritime industry. This event is one of many reasons for our success."

Manufacturers will participate in the event by explaining operating procedures and answering questions about their newest products. The safe operation and handling of this equipment is always paramount.

Activity at the Port of Baltimore generates about 16,500 jobs. Out of about 360 U.S. ports, Baltimore is ranked number one for handling Ro/Ro cargo; trucks; imported forest products; and imported gypsum, sugar and iron ore. In 2008, Ro/Ro tonnage at the Port's public terminals rose 16 percent, from about 833,000 tons to 968,000 tons. For the last decade, the Port of Baltimore has remained the dominant Ro/Ro port in the United States.

The Port of Baltimore is ranked 14th nationally for total foreign cargo tonnage and 12th for total dollar value of cargo. The Port is responsible for \$3.6 billion in personal wage and salary income. Activities at the Port of Baltimore generate \$388 million in state and local taxes.

As a result of its outstanding work to increase U.S. exports, the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) which oversees the public terminals at the Port of Baltimore, was honored in 2007 with the Presidential "E" award. The award was created in 1961 to recognize persons, firms, or organizations that contribute significantly to increase U.S. exports. The MPA was awarded this special distinction for its increased export business over the last several years. The MPA, which also won the "E" award in 1964, is only the 23rd port organization out of 361 total ports in the U.S. to win the highly acclaimed recognition. It is only the fourth port to win the award twice.

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