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Title: ***Potentially explosive containers disrupt West Coast port operations***

Author: *Andriana Davis, Marketing Communications Manager, Avalon Risk Management*

Ports in the West Coast are increasing safety procedures after multiple Vietnamese refrigerated containers exploded and killed three dockworkers in Vietnam and Brazil.

Contaminated gas in the container's cooling units likely caused the explosions. The Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) noted that these containers were processed in the port of Kat Lai in Vietnam. MSNBC reports that about 8,000 of these containers could be in circulation.

Now, any refrigerated container transported through or originating in any Vietnamese port will be identified upon arrival in the United States. Any container from Kat Lai will be isolated for special handling.

The PMA is working with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (IWLW) to protect workers while keeping the ports in operation. During the past few days, the IWLW refused to work certain vessels until a complete history was provided. The IWLW is insisting that "any dangerous containers be identified and removed from circulation before another person is killed."

As a precaution, several carriers removed hundreds of containers from circulation that underwent refrigeration repairs in Vietnam this year. The U.S. Coast Guard is also working with shippers and port officials to identify any faulty containers and ensure they are safe.

In the event of unintentional delays and/or deviations to your shipments because of this issue, Avalon's Cargo Insurance policy would respond. Coverage is also provided in the event of loss or damage caused by explosion. When your goods are insured with Avalon, you receive important clauses tailored to your industry. We are a leading provider of surety bonds and insurance for transportation-related companies.

For more information, please contact your local Avalon office or Andriana Davis at (847) 700-8087 or at adavis@avalonrisk.com. A list of our offices may be found at www.avalonrisk.com.

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