



The Maryland Port Administration

PRESS RELEASE

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LOCAL WORKERS LEARN THE ROPES AT 12th ANNUAL PORT RO/RO RODEO

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

BALTIMORE, MD – If the birds are singing, the flowers blooming and the rumble of construction and farm equipment fills the air, then it must be Ro/Ro (Roll On/ Roll Off) Rodeo time at the top ranked Ro/Ro port in the nation, Maryland’s Port of Baltimore.

More than 200 new longshoremen will participate May 20th and 21st in this 12th annual driver training exercise at the Dundalk Marine Terminal. Members of the International Longshoreman’s Association (ILA) Local 333 will receive hands-on lessons in maneuvering and operating the variety of Ro/Ro cargo that comes into Baltimore. This event is sponsored by the Maryland Port Administration (MPA), Steamship Trade Association, and the ILA.

“The 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. “We are 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.”

Leading Ro/Ro and automotive manufacturers will participate in the event by explaining operating procedures and answering questions about their newest products. To gain a better knowledge of safe handling techniques, as well as changes and upgrades to existing and new equipment, ILA members will engage in a variety of exercises, including lashing, 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, and Wirtgen America.

Out of 361 U.S. ports, the Port of Baltimore is ranked number one for handling Ro/Ro cargo. In 2007, Ro/Ro export tonnage at the Port’s public terminals rose 53 percent, from 306,498 tons to 469,827 tons. For the last decade, the Port of Baltimore has remained the dominant Ro/Ro port in the United States – with nearly 50 percent of the market share.

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