

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sheila Gonzales
(310) 732-3506

PORT OF LOS ANGELES IS NOW THE PACIFIC GATEWAY FOR ALL WEST COAST-BOUND CHILEAN AVOCADOS

*EXPORTER LAURITZENCOOL RE-ROUTES AVOCADO SHIPMENTS, GIVES
AVOCADOS YEAR-ROUND AVAILABILITY FOR SOUTHLAND CONSUMERS*



425 S. Palos Verdes Street

San Pedro, CA 90731

Tel: 310/732-3508

After 5:00 p.m.:

310/732-3500

SAN PEDRO, Calif. – LauritzenCool Group, the world’s largest operators of specialized refrigerated vessels, has made the Port of Los Angeles the gateway for its entire Chilean avocado shipments into the western U.S. Discontinuing ship calls to San Diego, LauritzenCool’s vessels will call on the Port of Los Angeles approximately 10 times this season. Combined with inbound avocado shipments from Compania Sudamericana de Vapores (CSAV), the Port of Los Angeles now receives 100 percent of all west coast-bound Chilean avocado exports -- approximately 65,000 pallets or 228 million avocados annually.

“We’re very happy to be delivering fresh, delicious Chilean avocados to the doorstep of one of the biggest avocado-loving markets in North America,” says Mike Karmelich, president of LauritzenCool USA, Inc. “The Port of Los Angeles has shown its commitment to handling our produce in a safe and expedient fashion; so it makes good business sense for us to make this port our one and only gateway for shipping avocados into the western U.S.”

“LauritzenCool’s decision to ship all of its western U.S.-bound avocados through the Port of Los Angeles is another example of the appeal our port

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Chilean Avocados at the Port

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has, not only as a gateway to the massive Southern California consumer market, but also in terms of having the infrastructure in place to move perishable goods to other cities throughout the U.S.," says Bruce Seaton, acting executive director at the Port of Los Angeles.

Year-Round Salads and Guacamole!

Chilean avocados are imported September through December to satisfy consumer demand during the off-season for California-grown avocados. As a result, supermarket produce aisles are stocked with a variety of Chilean avocados as well as peaches, grapes and cherries. The strategy maintains valuable shelf space for domestically grown brands during the winter season and gives consumers delicious seasonal fruit all year long. It is estimated that nearly 44 percent of all U.S. households purchase avocados, according to California Avocado Commission.

Approximately 300,000 metric tons of produce arrives each year at the Port of Los Angeles, making it one of the nation's largest inbound ports for fruits and vegetables.

The Port of Los Angeles is America's premier port. As the leading containerport in the nation and a critical hub in the international supply chain, the Port generates thousands of stable, well paying jobs. It has also placed a high priority on smart growth initiatives combined with high security, environmental stewardship and community outreach. The Port of Los Angeles is a proprietary, self-supporting department of the City of Los Angeles. The Port of Los Angeles. . . Anchoring a bright future.

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