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Virginia to allow direct billing to BCOs for chassis

JOC Staff | Dec 03, 2015 4:32PM EST

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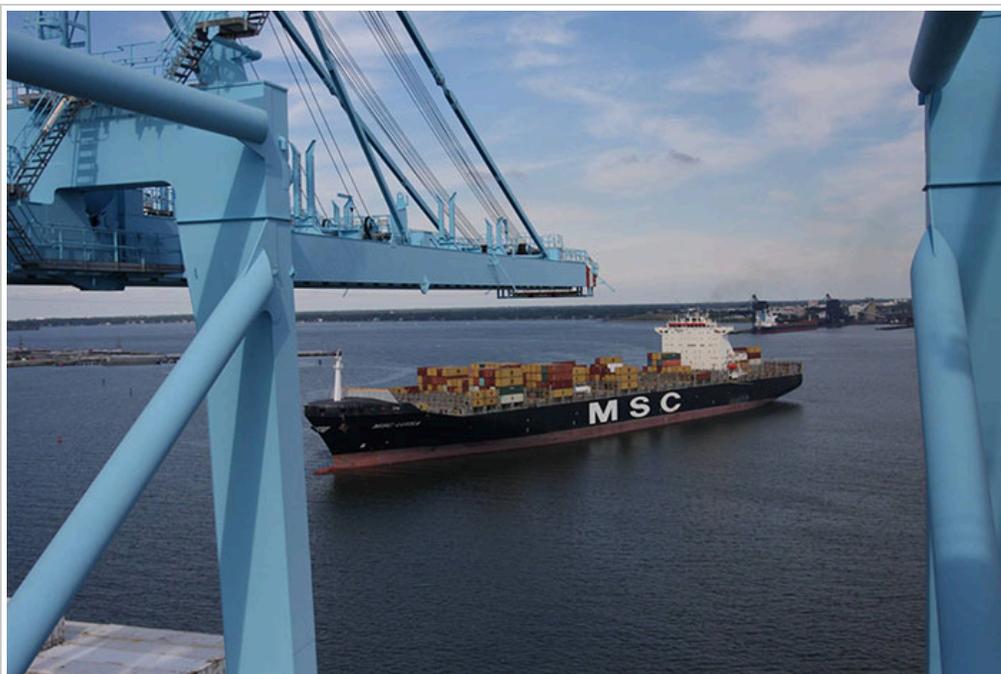
The view from a Port of Virginia crane.

The Port of Virginia's (http://www.joc.com/port-news/us-ports/port-virginia) chassis pool will implement a new system allowing beneficial cargo owners to be billed directly for chassis fees, and taking truckers and ocean carriers out of the middle of the billing process.

The "direct-to-BCO" billing system, ChassisManager, will be rolled out on Jan. 1 by Hampton Roads Chassis Pool II, the Virginia Port Authority's (http://www.joc.com/port-news/us-ports/virginia-port-authority) chassis management subsidiary.

ChassisManager was developed by Oakland-based International Asset Systems. The port authority said Virginia, which pioneered port-wide container pools, is the first U.S. port to use the new system.

"Chassis billing to-date has been a two-dimensional activity to the ocean carrier or to the motor carrier, but there is a third party, arguably the most important, who controls the cargo," said Ed Schriger, vice president of product at IAS. "Our new BCO billing module takes the burden of rebilling and reconciliation out of chassis operations."

BCOs will provide ChassisManager with shipment data indicating the moves for which they are responsible for chassis costs, based on whether their contracts call for carrier haulage or merchant haulage.

IAS data management and billing rule functionality will be extended to shippers and consignees whose goods

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are picked up and delivered on HRCPII chassis, regardless of geographic location.

BCOs will be able to view their daily chassis rental activity and dispute erroneous events before chassis usage invoices are produced, ensuring accurate billing.

"As the chassis provisioning model has evolved over the last few years, the freight owners' needs have not always been accommodated," said Art Ellermann, general manager of HRCPII. "By being able to track and bill chassis to the accounts of the beneficial cargo owners, the Port of Virginia serves them better and makes the entire chassis billing cycle more efficient for all."

By deriving billing rules from gate-move and shipment data, ChassisManager will provide parties with accurate visibility of chassis movements, the port authority said in announcing the new system.

Motor carriers, ocean carriers and BCOs will be able to view and track their HRCPII chassis usage, the port authority said. Web-based tools within ChassisManager will enable chassis users — now including BCOs — to monitor and dispute their usage if required.

"Pooling chassis for common use at the Port of Virginia has generated significant efficiency gains of the last decade," said John F. Reinhart, the port authority's CEO and executive director. "Offering BCOs the option to take control of their chassis usage and manage the associated costs is an important step in this progression."

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