



AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

**American Federation
of Labor and
Congress of Industrial
Organizations**

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Washington, DC 20006
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MEMORANDUM

TO: National and International Union Presidents
FROM: Richard L. Trumka
DATE: October 13, 2017
RE: Cargo Ships Carrying Puerto Rico Supplies

Many of you have asked how you can ship relief goods to working families in Puerto Rico. We are working with the Seafarers International Union (SIU), as well as the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the Maritime Trades to arrange for cargo ships to carry supplies to Puerto Rico. We currently have two ports identified: **Jacksonville, Florida and Pennsauken, New Jersey.**

Current urgent needs include:

- Water
- Non-perishable food items including high protein food such as canned tuna and chicken, and beans, and staples such as rice
- Protein shakes/Ensure/Power Bars
- Baby food/formula
- New generators
- New chain saws (and new bar and chain oil)
- Building materials
- Solar lights
- Batteries
- Tarps
- New gas cans
- Diapers
- Adult diapers
- Ponchos
- Over the counter medicine (Tums, Tylenol, etc.)
- Personal hygiene products

Due to shipping restrictions, please do not include the following:

- Used propane tanks
- Liquid insecticide
- Plastic gas cans with any flammable liquid
- Any bulk chemical – package greater than 1 gallon
- Any item that leaks or shows signs of leaking
- Any item requiring temperature control
- Firearms, explosives and ammunition
- Non-latex paint
- Any prescription drug
- Chlorine - in plastic jugs

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We have a limited number of shipping containers and want to be certain we have an adequate number of containers for supplies. Please **do not** drop off supplies without first contacting Yael Foa at yfoa@aflcio.org or 215-439-0676 so we can be certain there will be space for your items.

Please note the following:

- Supplies need to be placed on standard sized pallets (40" x 48" x 63") and shrink-wrapped (Jacksonville); or on shrink-wrapped pallets, in sealed boxes, or closed plastic tote containers (Pennsauken).
- The President of the Puerto Rico AFL-CIO, Jose Lole Rodriguez-Baez, is the point of contact for union-shipped cargo. Unions can send supplies designated for their members, or for the disaster relief efforts being coordinated by the Puerto Rico AFL-CIO. President Rodriguez-Baez will coordinate the collection of cargo in San Juan, bring it to a central location, and unions that are receiving supplies for their members will be able to obtain those supplies from President Rodriguez-Baez.
- Each pallet, box, or tote needs to have a label identifying the shipper and whether the supplies are intended for members of a particular union, or for the Puerto Rico AFL-CIO efforts. A sample label is attached.
- We will need an itemized list of supplies for the bill of lading. (i.e. 1 case canned goods, 35 cases bottled water, 1 case baby wipes, etc.) as well as an estimated total value of the goods being shipped.

Supply drop-off information:

Jacksonville: (Items need to be on pallets and wrapped)

Items can be dropped off at the Seafarers International Union hall on Mondays-Fridays from 9 AM – 3 PM, from Monday, October 16 – Friday, October 27.

Seafarers International Union
5100 Belfort Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32256

Pennsauken: (Items can be on pallets, or in sealed boxes or plastic containers)

Items can be dropped off the Seafarers International Union hall Monday-Friday from 9 AM – 4 PM, from Monday, October 16- Friday, October 27.

Seafarers International Union
2604 S. 4th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19148

Thank you.

RLT/KC/jg
Attachment