

DP World: Jebel Ali port congestion solved

24 November 2008

DP World, the fourth-largest container terminal operator, said on Monday operations at its port in Jebel Ali, Dubai, were back to normal after experiencing months of major congestion problems.

Importers in September complained that congestion at the port was so bad it could take almost a week just for ships to berth.

DP World, part of state-owned conglomerate Dubai World, blamed growth volumes for the congestion, which it said put pressure on ports in the region and caused vessel delays, which had a knock on effect at Jebel Ali.

DP World said around 80 percent of vessels were arriving out of their berthing windows, "with containers stacking up and taking time to clear".

DP World said traders were also leaving containers on the terminal for much longer, putting pressure on yard capacity.

DP World said the port had now "returned to the usual high service levels with no delays to shipping".

"DP World introduced a number of initiatives to relieve congestion that began at the terminal over the summer, working closely with its customers," the company said in a statement.

Initiatives included expanding yard capacity, working with customers to manage berthing times and increasing container storage fees, the company said.

Capacity at Jebel Ali port will increase by around five million 20-foot equivalent container units (TEU) in early 2009, when total handling capacity of the port will reach 14 million TEU, it said.

{ Arabian Business }