



BACK IT UP

Monthly Review on All Things Market,
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At PGT Services we care, we want you to have the information you need to make educated decisions. These bite-sized market updates allow you to spend less time digging through news outlets and more time focusing on your core competencies.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- TAYLOR SWIFT BONUS
- HURRICANE IDALIA
- PORT OF SAVANNAH
- FLEX FUEL FAIRNESS ACT
- PA CDL UPDATES





AUGUST 2023

As August ends, we say goodbye to the summer weather and prepare for the arrival of fall, along with the bustling transportation season it brings. To end the summer, Taylor Swift's Eras tour reportedly gifted \$100,000 bonuses to approximately 50 truck drivers, totaling an impressive \$5 million. In stark contrast, Hurricane Idalia, a Category 3 storm, struck Florida on August 30, causing widespread destruction along the Gulf Coast.

Experts and industry stakeholders are exploring alternatives to federal regulations favoring battery-electric trucks, with Senator Pete Ricketts supporting the Flex Fuel Fairness Act, which encourages flex fuel vehicle production alongside battery EVs. Pennsylvania is simplifying the CDL skills test, effective August 28, to enhance accessibility. Meanwhile, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg expands two marine highway systems, adding 250 miles to the Ohio River system and 6,500 miles of Alaskan waterways to enhance freight shipments and supply chains.



TAYLOR SWIFT REPORTEDLY GIVES TOUR TRUCKERS \$100,000 BONUSES

Taylor Swift has reportedly gifted around 50 truck drivers \$100,000 each as end-of-tour bonuses during her Eras tour in the U.S., totaling approximately \$5 million. She also provided unspecified “very generous” bonuses to other members of her production crew, including band members, dancers, caterers, and technicians. The Eras tour is expected to earn over \$1 billion by its conclusion in August.

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PORT OF SAVANNAH ADDS FOUR SHIP-TO-SHORE CRANES

The Port of Savannah, the third busiest in the U.S., prides itself on efficiency, moving cargo from ships to trucks or trains within 24 hours. Recently, the Georgia Ports Authority received four Super Post-Panamax ship-to-shore cranes, delivered by the BigLift Barentsz cargo ship, to boost container handling. These cranes will replace older equipment in the Port’s fleet, part of a \$1.9 billion infrastructure upgrade plan, enhancing its capacity to service multiple ships simultaneously.

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PENNSYLVANIA UPDATES CDL SKILLS TEST

Pennsylvania is updating its CDL skills test, effective August 28, to enhance accessibility for truck drivers without compromising safety. Changes include simplifying the pre-trip vehicle inspection and basic control skills sections, reducing components to inspect, allowing checklist use, and making the test one continuous maneuver. These updates aim to streamline the CDL process and address the school bus driver shortage by removing the requirement to identify engine components under the hood.

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HURRICANE IDALIA SWAMPS SOUTHEAST, CLOSES HIGHWAYS

Category 3 Hurricane Idalia hit Florida on August 30, causing widespread destruction along the Gulf Coast. It submerged homes, flooded streets, and downed power lines, including those on northbound Interstate 75 near Valdosta, Ga. The storm impacted the Big Bend region, prompting evacuations and emergency measures such as suspending commercial vehicle regulations and deploying National Guard troops.

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TRUCKING URGES ZERO-EMISSION APPROACH THAT GOES BEYOND EVS

Experts and industry stakeholders are discussing alternatives to federal regulations that favor battery-electric trucks. Senator Pete Ricketts is supporting the Flex Fuel Fairness Act, which incentivizes flex fuel vehicle production alongside battery EVs. They emphasize considering renewable fuels like biodiesel and hydrogen while expressing concerns about EV costs and charging infrastructure. This balanced approach aims to meet the industry’s needs.

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USDOT NAMES 2 NEW MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEMS

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg has expanded two new marine highway systems, adding 250 miles to the Ohio River system and 6,500 miles of Alaskan waterways to improve freight shipments and supply chains. The total designated marine highways now stand at 31, providing a cost-effective means to transport significant freight quantities and integrate waterborne cargo into the U.S. multimodal surface transportation system. These expansions aim to enhance port operations and affordability.

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