

Argentina – port delays continue due to tug restrictions

An announcement in Argentine media this February reported that the local stevedoring union SOMU, part of the Argentine Transport Workers' Federation (CATT), would implement measures to delay vessels flying the British flag. This was apparently in an attempt to force the United Kingdom to negotiate with Argentina over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas.

The Argentine Navigation Center ([Centro de Navegación](#)) reported thereafter that that measures by CATT are also being taken against vessels flying the flags of the Bahamas, the Bermudas, Gibraltar, Greece, Hong Kong, the Cayman Islands, the Isle of Man, the Marshall Islands, Malta, Panama and Singapore. The consequences of the measures taken are delays due to restrictions placed on tug services. A delay of 6 hours on entry and 6 hours on departure can be expected for vessels calling at Argentine ports. A copy of the circular published by the Argentine Navigation Center can be found [here](#).

Delays in Argentine ports due to tug restrictions are continuing and one of Gard's Members was recently delayed at the Port of Buenos Aires due to what was reported as a "boycott by the tug operators". The vessel in question is flying the flag of Gibraltar.

Gard's Members and clients calling at ports in Argentina should therefore be aware of the situation and contact their local agents well before arrival to establish the current position in each Argentine port. This applies in particular to vessels flying one of the flags listed above.

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