

Work Reform Agreement Returns McCormick Place to a Top Tier Venue

MPEA and Labor Unions reach agreement on work reforms at Chicago's top trade show facility



Chicago's McCormick Place may soon be the most customer-friendly trade show venue in the country. Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA), which owns and manages McCormick Place, and the labor organizations that represent the McCormick Place workforce have reached settlement on work rule reforms. The changes align McCormick Place operations with its major competitors in the trade show industry.

Four Key Reforms at McCormick Place

- **The Exhibitors' Bill of Rights** – Exhibitors are now allowed to perform their own work regardless of booth size, using their own equipment; ladders, hand and power tools, and other tools designated by the Authority.
- **Key Expanded Straight-time** (Monday – Friday) has been restored, while double-time pay for Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day and President's Day has been rolled back. Also, a more flexible schedule on Saturdays will reduce double-time.
- **Auto Small Utility Vehicles (ASUV)** – Exhibitors can now operate, load and unload their own vehicles at McCormick Place docks and other designated loading areas.
- **Crew Size Reductions** – Reduces the size of required work crews from 3-person to 2-person.

In recent years, events previously hosted in Chicago were being moved by show organizers to cities like Las Vegas and Orlando due to high costs and stringent labor rules. The agreement's intent is to lower costs associated with exhibiting in Chicago and return McCormick Place to a top trade show destination.

Another reform already implemented at McCormick Place allows show organizers to select an electrical provider of their choice from an approved vendor list, which keeps prices competitive. McCormick Place also continues to offer reduced parking rates at its surface parking lot as well as free Wi-Fi access throughout the facility.

For more information, visit: www.mpea.com/press_room/press_room.html

Sources:

MPEA, *MPEA and Labor Unions Reach Agreement to Solidify Work Rule Reforms at McCormick Place (10/21/11)*

Chicago Tribune, *Chicago loses Car Care expo to Vegas (6/13/11)*

Wall Street Journal, *Chicago Loses Cachet as Convention Center (1/19/10)*