



NEWS RELEASE

Port of Wilmington in Delaware welcomes first Moroccan citrus vessel to U.S. for the 2018-19 season

WILMINGTON, Del. – Nov. 8, 2018 – The Port of Wilmington Delaware had the honor of receiving the first breakbulk shipment of fresh Moroccan citrus **of the season** to arrive in the United States.

The M.V. Belgie Reefer, a specialized refrigerated vessel, was welcomed on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, to the nation's foremost marine terminal for perishable cargo on behalf of long-time **Port of Wilmington** customer Fresh Fruit Maroc.

The Belgie Reefer began discharging her cargo of over 574,800 boxes of fresh clementines on Wednesday, November 7, 2018. Wilmington is a major port of entry and distribution center for the seasonal importation of fresh Moroccan citrus, including Nour and Nadorcott **clementine varieties**.

During this season that runs through March, the Port anticipates receiving approximately 12 shiploads of fruit from the Moroccan Atlantic port of Agadir. The arrival of the Belgie Reefer marks the **19th consecutive year** that the Port has been receiving express, breakbulk shipments for Fresh Fruit Maroc.

"We are privileged to **continue as the port of choice to serve our customers and trade partners for timely distribution** of the freshest available fruit to North American consumers," said Eric Casey, **chief executive officer of the Port, operated by GT USA Wilmington**.

Susan Bricks, representative for Fresh Fruit Maroc North America, said, "Wilmington has been a great partner for us over many years – important not only to our group, but to our customers. We are looking forward to another successful season."

Cargo is stored in the Port's 800,000 square foot on-dock refrigerated warehouse complex, one of North America's largest facilities, before distribution **to markets throughout** the United States and Canada. The **Port of Wilmington** handled more than 10,700,000 boxes of Moroccan citrus in the 2018-19 season.

#



About the Port of Wilmington, Delaware

Founded in 1923, the Port of Wilmington is a full service Mid-Atlantic seaport on the Delaware River strategically located to provide overnight access to 200 million North American consumers. Wilmington ranks as North America's top banana port and the nation's leading gateway for imports of fresh fruit and juice concentrates. The Port was one of the originally certified '360 Quality' marine terminals in the United States, underscoring its high-quality handling standards for perishable cargo. An economic engine for the State of Delaware and the region, business activity at the Port creates over 5,900 family sustaining jobs and annually generates \$436 million in business revenue, \$409 million in personal income and \$41 million in local taxes. The Port is operated by GT USA Wilmington, LLC. For further information, visit www.gulftainer.com

About GT USA

GT USA is the U.S. division of Gulftainer, the world's largest privately-owned independent port operator and logistics company with operations and business interests in the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Brazil and the United States. GT's presence in North America expanded in 2018 with the signing of a 50-year concession agreement with the state of Delaware to manage and operate the Port of Wilmington, a deep-water port and marine terminal serving the Eastern Seaboard. The company's first venture into the USA came in 2014 with the signing of a 35-year agreement to operate Canaveral Cargo Terminal, a multi-purpose cargo and container terminal in Florida. For more information, visit www.gulftainer.com/US

For media enquiries, please contact:

Kathryn Bradley

*Group Corporate Communications Manager
Gulftainer*

T: +1 (302) 472 2028

C: +1 (302) 383 9947

Kbradley@gulftainer.com