







The heavy costs of cheap goods

The ports [of Los Angeles and Long Beach] themselves reckon they are responsible for about 12% of all the diesel particle emissions and 45% of the sulphur oxides in southern California . Carried east by prevailing winds, such pollutants help to create some of America's worst air more than 50 miles

(80 km) inland. Those who live close to the freeways leading out of the ports suffer most.



Researchers at the University of Southern California have found that children living within a few hundred metres of such roads are not only more likely to suffer from asthma. They actually have smaller lungs.

From 1997 to 2006 in both ports the number of annually unloaded 20-foot-containers increased from 4 million to more than 10 million.

The Economist, April 28th, 2007 issue, p. 54 & 55

7



Index* Home*