

customer advisory

USA Advisory: LCL Export & Import Service Delays

Dear Valued Customer,

Below you will find the latest information on the current situation in the USA, also recently published by our US agent in the local market:

To keep you better informed of the current operational situation occurring in the U.S., we would like to provide you with the following updates.

While COVID infection numbers continuing to fall, its impact still remains, affecting all intermediaries of the supply chain, including steam ship lines, terminals, trucking companies, and warehouses, with the increase in congestion and delays. In addition, demand in the industry is recovering after Lunar New Year.

Vessels continue to be pushed further off the proforma schedule causing blank sailings, and inclement weather has affected operations in some areas in the country, aggravating delays.

Terminals Updates:

Due to increased volume and labor shortage, most terminals are experiencing congestion issues, including Los Angeles/Long Beach, Savannah, Charleston, Miami, Houston, Seattle.

Each month, high cargo volumes continue to enter the U.S., with most North American ports facing berthing congestion.

U.S. East Coast:

New York/New Jersey: Vessel wait time up to 3 days due to high import volume, one crane down at APM Terminal, and weather issues.

Norfolk: Vessel waiting time is up to 9 days due to high import volume.

Charleston: Vessel wait times are between 8-12 days due to labor shortage and high import volume.

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Port Everglades and Miami: Vessel wait times are up to 5 days due to high import volume. Equipment shortages are resulting in pick-up delays. Allocation and blank sailings are affecting the services out of MIA

U.S. West Coast:

Long Beach: Vessel waiting time is up to 36 days due to high import dwell and labor shortages. TTI Terminal yard utilization is at 67% capacity.

Los Angeles: Vessel waiting time is up to 35 days due to yard congestion, high import dwell, and labor shortages. APM yard has 80% of the capacity used.

Seattle: 3-day vessel wait time due to high import volume and labor shortages. Container terminals are more congested, and many containers are stored for weeks in a closed area until truckers can pick them up. All operations are delayed about a month, and transit times are much longer than in previous weeks due to blank sailings and vessel delays at the port pushing other vessel further back.

Oakland: up to 12 days of waiting time for containers from Asia and 17 days from Germany due to high import volume, labor shortages, and one berth down. Ships looking to berth in Oakland will now wait offshore, which will delay operations. The backlog is caused mainly due to a massive amount of empty containers in terminals waiting to be returned to Asia.

U.S. Gulf Coast:

Houston: Waiting time is up to 10 days due to high import volume, labor shortages, and port congestion.

Rail Terminal Updates:

BNSF & UP/LAX/LGB: There is severe congestion. Limited gate capacity, restrictions, rail car shortages, and limited reservations continue, causing increased delays on import rail units. There is limited allocation at this time. In Los Angeles, containers wait an average of almost 16 days before being picked up.

Chicago Rail Ramp: The rail facilities in Chicago are experiencing severe congestion due to dwelling containers and chassis shortages. There are gate restrictions and lane suspensions, causing extended delays in pick-ups and deliveries. The rails continue to monitor in-gates with allocation or reservations.

CP Schiller Park: Open and working under normal operating hours.

CSX Bedford Park: Limiting reservations for in gate to rail.

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NY/NJ: Chassis shortage includes rail ramps due to the high increase in import volume.

Philadelphia: Severe chassis shortages in the Philadelphia area. Extended delays in pick-ups, deliveries, and drayage.

Charleston: Lack of chassis causing extended delays in pick-ups, deliveries, and drayage over to rail facilities.

Savannah: Continued congestion and delays at the local ramps. Shortage of chassis and equipment continues to affect operations.

Jacksonville and Miami: The shortage of equipment in Florida has carriers struggling to keep the service due to a slower turnover of import containers coming into the area. Most loads have been delayed an average of one to two weeks.

Seattle: Congestion due to increased dwell for Import rail cargo. Up to 10 days delay for cargo going to Chicago. Most truckers are booked 2 weeks or more in advance with limited trucker capacity.

Houston/Dallas: There is a severe chassis shortage and ongoing congestion in the area, in addition weather conditions have affected operations. Finding truckers has become a challenge as they are booked for 2-3 weeks in advance.

Chassis issues are challenging in all regions in the U.S. This is due to the division of the intermodal system, the severity of the Covid 19 pandemic, and the lack of additional capacity at different levels of the supply chain.

Equipment Availability:

There are continuous chassis shortages in Los Angeles/Long Beach, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Columbus, Cleveland, Chicago, Memphis, Atlanta, Nashville, and Louisville.

Equipment availability remains an issue at Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Columbus, Detroit, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Memphis, Nashville, Omaha, St. Louis, South Florida, and Seattle.

Trucking capacity to accommodate less than 74% of freight volume is an issue in the East Coast, from New York to Florida and the Gulf Coast, affecting Louisiana and Texas.

Washington state has seen the trucking capacity affected as well.

For further information please contact your local SACO Shipping Team.