FrachtNEWS

Logistics Market Report







Port of Baltimore Closed Indefinitely After Bridge Collapse

he Port of Baltimore will remain closed for the foreseeable future after a Maersk-chartered container ship lost power and crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge early Tuesday," as reported by authorities (Angell, 2024)

The incident, resulting in casualties and severe disruptions, isolates the fifth-largest US East Coast port, prompting a temporary overhaul of the region's supply chain.

The closure impacts vessel traffic and necessitates rerouting cargo, with repercussions expected for months. Authorities focus on recovery efforts, with no timeline for the port's reopening. The incident underscores the critical importance of infrastructure resilience and safety measures in maritime operations.

Source: Angell, M. (2024, March 26). No timeline for Baltimore port reopening following bridge collapse. Journal of Commerce. <u>https://www.</u> joc.com/article/no-timeline-baltimore-port-reopening-following-bridgecollapse_20240326.html



Ocean Alliance Extends Partnership for Five More Years

he Ocean Alliance group of container carriers, comprising CMA CGM, Cosco Shipping, Evergreen, and OOCL, has announced the extension of their partnership for another five years, continuing their vesselsharing agreement until the end of March 2032.

Analyst Lars Jensen, chief executive at Danish consultancy Vespucci Maritime, expressed surprise at the extension, stating, "I had expected them to split up, but here we are," in a LinkedIn post on Tuesday (Ajdin, 2024).

This development comes amidst changes in the global liner landscape, with the 2M partnership between Maersk and Mediterranean Shipping Co (MSC) set to expire next year

and Hapag-Lloyd exiting THE Alliance in favor of the Gemini Cooperation partnership with Maersk.

Jensen predicts that MSC will likely continue independently, given their scale and flexibility, while pressure mounts on THE Alliance members ONE, HMM, and Yang Ming to find a replacement for Hapag-Lloyd.

While there was speculation about potential shifts in alliances, such as Wan Hai joining THE Alliance, Jensen believes it unlikely to occur this decade, emphasizing the solidification of the liner landscape with both Ocean Alliance and Gemini Cooperation in place.

Source: Ajdin, A. (2024, February 28). Ocean Alliance deal extended to 2032. Splash247. https://splash247.com/ocean-alliance-deal-extended-to-2032/



Capacity Operated on main East-West & Middle-East trades



CMA CGM Adjusts Red Sea Transits Amid Security Concerns

rench shipping company CMA CGM Group has announced it will resume Red Sea transits on a caseby-case basis, citing reevaluated conditions in the Southern Area of the Red Sea.

"We have reevaluated the situation in the Southern Area of the Red Sea and the evolving conditions allow us to resume transit on a case-by-case basis," stated the Marseille-based carrier (Karamalegkos, 2024).

However, the company emphasized that "routing choices cannot be anticipated or communicated," as each vessel's situation is closely assessed before transit (Karamalegkos, 2024). In response to continued attacks on cargo ships in the region from Yemen's Houthi movement, CMA CGM had halted sailings through the Red Sea on 1 February. All other vessels were rerouted via the Cape of Good Hope as a precautionary measure.

Source: Karamalegkos, A. (2024, March 8). *CMA CGM resumes Red Sea transits*. Container News. <u>https://container-news.com/cma-cgm-resumes-red-sea-transits/</u>

Global Market (Air Fr

April 2024

Air Freight

Unveiling Air Cargo Demand Catalysts: E-commerce Surge and Supply Chain Flexibility

t the IATA World Cargo Symposium, Niall van de Wouw, Xeneta's chief airfreight officer, dissected the core drivers behind the surge in air cargo demand, as outlined by Air Cargo News. He pinpointed three key factors: container shipping reliability, evolving consumer preferences, and the imperative for supply chain risk mitigation.

Van de Wouw emphasized the pivotal role of container shipping reliability in shaping shippers' modal choices. He highlighted that trust in ocean carriers influences the decision to opt for air freight, particularly amidst challenges such as the Red Sea crisis, which amplifies air cargo's appeal. Regarding consumer behavior, van de Wouw acknowledged the duality of its impact on air cargo demand. He noted the positive momentum generated by the rapid expansion of e-commerce, exemplified by the meteoric rise of companies like Temu, which now stand as major air freight users However, he also highlighted a potential downside, with consumers increasingly mindful of the environmental repercussions of their purchases, potentially nudging companies towards ocean shipping alternatives.

In van de Wouw's words, "They will only use air if they must, and will use ocean if they can," (Brett, 2024) encapsulating the delicate balance between speed and sustainability driving air cargo demand.

This discourse underscores the intricate interplay between market dynamics and environmental awareness in shaping the trajectory of air cargo demand, emphasizing the need for adaptability and resilience in navigating evolving supply chain landscapes.

Source: Brett, D. (2024, March 12). *Air Cargo Demand Drivers*. Air Cargo News. <u>https://www.aircargonews.net/iata-wcs/air-cargo-demand-drivers/</u>





E-commerce Fuels Growth of Far East – North America Air Cargo Trade Lane



t the 2024 IATA World Cargo Symposium (WCS), Marie Owens Thomsen, IATA's senior vice president of sustainability and chief economist, shed light on the notable growth of the Far East – North America air cargo trade lane. As reported by Air Cargo News (n.d.), Thomsen attributed this expansion, with a 3% increase in international cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs) in 2023, primarily to the surge in e-commerce activities.

Thomsen highlighted the significant role played by e-commerce evolution in shaping trade dynamics, particularly in directing and amplifying trade flows towards the Americas. She remarked, "We would naturally think that this must have something to do with the e-commerce evolution, and the direction and expansion of the trade lane probably comes from this direction towards the Americas." (Jeffrey, 2024)

Furthermore, Thomsen underscored the resilience of the air cargo industry amidst global trade fluctuations, noting that air cargo growth surpasses that of merchandised trade. Despite challenges such as the pandemic-induced downturn and subsequent recovery, air cargo remains a vital component of the aviation sector's growth trajectory.

While acknowledging the strain on cargo revenues during the pandemic, Thomsen expressed optimism for the future, emphasizing the strategic importance of cargo in bolstering airline operations. She emphasized the need to prioritize the resilience and strategic significance of cargo operations, especially in navigating unforeseen disruptions like the Red Sea shipping crisis, which significantly impacted air cargo rates in January.

Thomsen's insights underscore the pivotal role of e-commerce in reshaping trade lanes and driving air cargo demand, highlighting the importance of adaptability and strategic planning in the evolving global trade landscape.

Source: Jeffrey, R. (2024, March 12). Far east- north america cargo trade lane fuelled by e-commerce. Air Cargo News. https://www. aircargonews.net/iata-wcs/far-east-northamerica-cargo-trade-lane-fuelled-by-ecommerce/

Fracht GROUP

North American Market

Ocean Freight

Ensuring Fairness: FMC Implements New Regulations to Protect Truckers from D&D Charges

he Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) has issued 11 final rules for detention and demurrage billing to protect port truckers from bearing those charges," reports Michael Angell, Associate Editor. "However, cargo receivers may still be subject to the fees even if they did not contract for the cargo's transportation. These rules aim to clarify 'what is being billed by whom' and address concerns raised over nearly three years" (Angell, 2024).



Source: Angell, M. (2024). FMC's new rules to prevent truckers from being hit with D&D bills. https://www.joc.com/article/fmcs-new-rules-preventtruckers-being-hit-dd-bills 20240223.html

Addressing Rail Container Backlogs in Southern California Ports

erminal operators at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are actively tackling a backlog of rail containers accumulated due to consecutive months of robust imports. According to Bill Mongelluzzo, Senior Editor at Journal of Commerce, rail container inventory at Yusen Terminals in Los Angeles has doubled, though the situation is being managed adequately. With January and February witnessing a 39.6% increase in US imports from Asia via Los Angeles-

Long Beach, BNSF and Union Pacific, the two major railroads serving the region, are responding by deploying more intermodal railcars and adjusting operations to expedite container clearance and reduce dwell times (Mongelluzzo, 2024).



Reference: Mongelluzzo, B. (2024, March 19). BNSF, UP working through rail container backlogs in Southern California. Journal of Commerce. https://www.joc.com/article/bnsf-working-through-railcontainer-backlogs-southern-california_20240319.html?utm_source=Eloqua

Fracht GROUP



APM Terminals Initiates Changes to Alleviate Trucker Challenges at New Jersey Facility

A PM Terminals in New Jersey is making changes to improve its container appointment system, aiming to address trucker concerns while enhancing operational efficiency. The terminal is adding equipment and appointment slots to ease scheduling difficulties. It will cease charging fees for missed appointments, effective March, and plans long-term enhancements for user-friendliness.

Truckers have faced delays in securing appointments, leading to challenges in picking up imports and increased demurrage risks for shippers. Despite efforts to improve efficiency, truckers have reported significant time investments in the appointment process and challenges in managing scheduling around their operational constraints.

While APM Terminals is moving forward with linking appointments to specific drivers, concerns remain about dispatching flexibility and the likelihood of missed appointments due to unexpected delays.



The terminal's efforts reflect a commitment to address industry challenges and enhance operational effectiveness while ensuring smooth cargo movements and customer satisfaction.

Quote: "We have reevaluated the situation in the Southern Area of the Red Sea and the evolving conditions allow us to resume transit on a case-by-case basis." (Michael Angell, Associate Editor)

Source: Michael Angell, Associate Editor. (2024, February 28). APM looks to ease trucker woes over New Jersey terminal appointment system. Journal of Commerce. https://www.joc.com/article/apm-looks-easetrucker-woes-over-new-jersey-terminal-appointment-system_20240228. html?utm_campaign=CL_JOC%20Ports%203%2F6%2F24%20 %20_PC00000_e-production_E-167295_TF_0306_1400&utm_ medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

Facilitating Ultra-Large Container Vessel Transit: Virginia's Port Expansion

he Port of Virginia has officially opened its widened shipping channel for two-way passage of ultra-large container vessels (ULCVs)" (Ovcina Mandra, 2024).

Expected to reduce berthing time by up to 15%, the project aims to accommodate higher cargo volumes and expedite movement.

CEO Stephen A. Edwards stated, "This widened channel offers a distinct advantage, ensuring seamless vessel flow and enhancing harbor safety" (Ovcina Mandra, 2024).



Dredging, slated for completion in 2025, is underway with support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Source: Ovcina Mandra, J. (2024, March 4). Virginia's expanded channel unleashes two-way passage for ULCVs. World Cargo News. <u>https://www.worldcargonews.com/news/2024/03/virginias-expanded-channel-unleashes-two-way-passage-for-ulcvs/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20week%202024-10</u>

North American Market (Air Freight

Navigating Cargo Capacity: Implications for China-US Logistics

S carriers hesitate to reinstate routes to China postpandemic, signaling potential constraints in meeting the surge in e-commerce needs. The aviation industry has been witnessing a notable uptick in capacity, driven by escalating travel demands. However, the resurgence in cargo capacity, particularly in the US-China sector, remains sporadic, potentially jeopardizing cargo requirements.

In a move reflecting the ongoing travel slump between the two nations due to the Covid outbreak, the US Department of Transportation (DoT) has extended waivers for American Airlines, Delta, and United Airlines, permitting them to defer resuming flights to China for another 90 days without risking traffic rights.

American and Delta, in their waiver extension requests, cited



persistently low travel demands, rendering the operation of these routes economically unfeasible. Consequently, the DoT granted waivers for a significant number of flights by these airlines, resulting in a considerable reduction in bellyhold capacity between the US and China compared to pre-pandemic levels.

"The reluctance of US carriers to reinstate flights to China underscores the challenges in balancing air travel resurgence with the burgeoning e-commerce demands, necessitating strategic adjustments in logistics operations." (Whiteman, 2024)

Source: Whiteman, A. (2024, March 14). *Only piecemeal additions to cargo capacity on China-US flights*. The Loadstar. <u>https://theloadstar.com/only-piecemeal-additions-to-cargo-capacity-on-china-us-flights/</u>

TSA Policy Shift Eases Compliance for Air Cargo Handlers

n a move aimed at reducing regulatory burdens, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has announced a policy change allowing airfreight intermediaries to renew security credentials every three years, instead of annually.

The update, affecting approximately 3,800 indirect air carriers registered with the TSA, aims to streamline operations and cut costs. According to the TSA, this adjustment will save the industry about \$5.5 million over a decade without compromising aviation security standards.

"Aside from financial benefits, this change will also reduce the administrative load on the TSA," noted a TSA spokesperson. (Kulisch, 2024)

Under the revised guidelines, air forwarders remain subject to stringent vetting to ensure operational legitimacy and security compliance. They are tasked with implementing approved security measures to prevent the shipment of prohibited materials.

Industry stakeholders anticipate improved efficiency and reduced administrative burdens with this regulatory relief.



Reference: Kulisch, E. (2024, March 5). *TSA rule change provides regulatory relief to air logistics providers*. FreightWaves. <u>https://www.freightwaves.com/news/tsa-rule-change-provides-regulatory-relief-to-air-logistics-providers</u>

Fracht GROUP

North American Market (Air F

Air Freight

China Southern Airlines to Launch Historic Direct Flight Route to Mexico

hina Southern Airlines Co., the largest Chinese airline, is set to inaugurate its inaugural direct flight to Mexico, marking a significant milestone in the country's aviation connectivity and underscoring Mexico's rising prominence as a gateway to the Americas for China.

Scheduled to commence on April 17th, China Southern Airlines' direct flights to Mexico City International Airport (AICM) will operate twice a week, originating from Shenzhen in southern China, as confirmed by a spokesperson for the state carrier. Covering a distance of over 14,000 kilometers across the Pacific, the non-stop journey will become China's lengthiest flight, symbolizing a remarkable feat in aviation. Despite the logistical challenges posed by the vast distance and terrain, this initiative underscores Mexico's allure for Chinese businesses seeking to navigate geopolitical tensions between Beijing and Washington.

"This direct flight signifies the strengthening ties between China and Mexico, opening new avenues for trade and investment," stated a representative from China Southern Airlines. (Lee & Pacheco, 2024).

Source: Lee, D., & Pacheco, F. (2024, March 11). Torre de control, Permiso Para Despegar: China Reanudará Su Vuelo Más largo con Destino a México. El Financiero. https://www.elfinanciero.com.mx/empresas/2024/03/11/ reinicio-de-vuelos-china-mexico-china-southern-airlines-que-sabemos/





Mexico

Ocean Freight

Analyzing the Growth of a Vital Global Trade Corridor



midst global trade challenges, the China to Mexico route experiences significant expansion, positioning itself as "one of the fastest-growing trade routes worldwide," as per European data analysis firm Xeneta (Cota, 2024).

Demand for containers on this route surged by 59.7% in January compared to the same period in 2023, with trade volume reaching 117,000 TEUs (Twenty Equivalent Units), according to Peter Sand, Chief Analyst at Xeneta (Cota, 2024). Sand highlights the growing trade strength between China and Mexico, with an impressive annual growth rate of 34.8% in 2023, contrasting sharply with the 3.5% growth in 2022 (Cota, 2024).

Source: Cota, I. (2024, March 15). The trade route from China to Mexico soars by 60% in January and is consolidated among the largest in the world. El Pais. https://elpais.com/mexico/economia/2024-03-15/la-ruta-comercial-de-china-a-mexico-se-dispara-un-60-en-enero.html

Latin American Market

Ocean Freight

Panama Canal Boosts Panamax Locks Daily Slots

he Panama Canal Authority (ACP) has responded to current and projected levels of Gatun Lake by announcing an adjustment to meet the rising demand for transits. This involves increasing the daily slots available in the Panamax Locks, as detailed in Advisory to Shipping No. A-08-2024. Specifically, two additional slots will be auctioned for transit dates starting March 18, with an extra slot available for transit dates beginning March 25 (The Uncontained, 2024).

Source: The Uncontained. (2024, March 12). Panama Canal announces increase in daily slots at Panamax Locks. <u>https://theuncontained.com/articles/full/panama-canal-announces-increase-in-daily-slots-at-panamax-locks</u>



Latin American Market

Ocean Freight

Adjustments in Mediterranean-South America Shipping Service by Maersk and CMA CGM

aersk and CMA CGM have informed their clientele of forthcoming alterations to their collaborative Bossa Nova/SIRIUS service, linking the Mediterranean with South America's East Coast. Effective March 14, calls at Rio de Janeiro port (Southbound) will be suspended until July, with the exact resumption date awaiting confirmation. CMA CGM states this decision is geared toward bolstering service reliability, heavily impacted by operational constraints and port congestion in Brazil. These challenges stem from ongoing repairs at Santos BTP Pier 1 and public works at Navegantes. Maersk emphasized that these operational hurdles are anticipated to persist at least through Q2 2024. The revised port rotation now includes Algeciras (Spain), Tanger (Morocco), Salvador (Brazil), Santos (Brazil), Paranagua (Brazil), Itapoa (Brazil), Paranagua (Brazil), Santos (Brazil), Itaguai (Brazil), Tanger (Morocco), and Algeciras (Spain) (Kontos, 2024).



Source: Kontos, I. (2024, March). Maersk, CMA CGM suspend Rio de Janeiro port call on joint service. <u>https://container-news.com/maersk-cma-cgm-</u> suspend-rio-de-janeiro-port-call-on-joint-service/

Intermodal 2024: Setting New Benchmarks for Logistics Discourse

he 28th edition of Intermodal South America transformed São Paulo into a global epicenter for cargo logistics. This longstanding event attracted professionals and companies worldwide, converging to explore trends in one of the economy's most pivotal sectors. "The main event of the logistics sector in Latin America was held with a record participation of more than 500 exhibiting companies." (Intermodal 2024).



Reference: Intermodal 2024. (n.d.). Intermodal 2024: record participation to discuss logistics trends. <u>https://movant.net/intermodal-2024-</u> participacion-record-para-discutir-tendencias-logisticas/

European Market

Ocean Freight

Red Sea Crisis Spurs Surge in Emissions Costs for Shipping Companies

Persistent missile attacks by Houthi rebels on ships traversing the Red Sea route have led to soaring emissions liabilities for shipping companies under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). According to a report by OceanScore, the increased threat has resulted in a surge in fuel consumption as vessels divert via the Cape of Good Hope, adding substantial distance to their voyages. Ioanna Kontos from Container News highlights that these disruptions have caused spot freight rates to double or triple compared to pre-disruption levels,



while charter rates have risen by 28% since December. Furthermore, OceanScore estimates that the diversion via the Cape has tripled bunker consumption due to longer distances and increased sailing speeds. This has led to a near-threefold increase in EU Allowances (EUA) costs per voyage, from \$107,000 to \$312,000, with the current carbon price of approximately \$60 per tonne of CO2 (Kontos, 2024).

Source: Kontos, I. (2024). OceanScore analysis shows near-tripling of EU ETS costs due to Red Sea crisis. Container News. <u>https://container-news.com/oceanscore-analysis-shows-near-tripling-of-eu-ets-costs-due-to-red-sea-crisis/</u>

Asia Market

Ocean Freight

Market Shifts Ease Concerns of Container Shortage

ears of an impending empty container crisis in Asia have waned as weak demand and capacity growth contribute to rate declines post-Chinese New Year.

Hong Kong-based analyst Linerlytica noted a significant "freight rate correction," with carriers unable to sustain pre-Chinese New Year gains. The SCFI saw a 6.2% decrease in the previous week (Evans, 2024).

According to Drewry container shipping consultant Simon Heaney, global rates on major trade routes have softened, affecting backhaul freight as well. Despite a 20% increase in empty repositioning since 2019, container trade imbalances have remained relatively stable (Evans, 2024). Dynamar analyst Darron Wadey highlights that while empty box statistics approach 2021 highs, the intensity of imbalance seen in 2021 hasn't recurred. The container fleet's growth surpasses trade growth, indicating sufficient flexibility to meet demand (Evans, 2024).

Xenata's Emily Stausbøll notes a softening trend in backhaul rates, suggesting ample capacity to manage demand shifts (Evans, 2024).



Reference: Evans, M. A. (2024, March 5). Weak demand puts paid to talk of empty box crisis. Container News. <u>https://container-news.com/weak-demand-puts-paid-to-talk-of-empty-box-crisis/</u>

Fracht GROUP



Ocean Freight

Asia-Europe Shipping Rates Decline Amidst Market Shifts



S pot rates on Asia-Europe Ocean routes have sharply declined since mid-January, reflecting adjustments around southern Africa and market dynamics (Knowler, 2024).

European importers are facing additional costs due to extended transit times, prompting changes in ordering and sourcing strategies (Knowler, 2024).

Despite rates remaining elevated post-Red Sea crisis, overcapacity on Asia-Europe routes challenges carriers in maintaining prices (Knowler, 2024).

Source: Knowler, G. (2024, March 12). Asia-Europe ocean rates in rapid retreat as market settles into new normal. Journal of Commerce. https://www.joc.com/article/asia-europe-ocean-rates-rapid-retreatmarket-settles-new-normal 20240312.html?utm_source=Eloqua&utm_ medium=email&utm_campaign=CL_JOC%20Daily%203%2F13%2F24%20 Non-Subscriber_PC00000_e-production_E-167569_DS_0313_1017

Middle East & African Market

Ocean Freight

Exploring Future Growth: Egypt's Consideration for Suez Canal Expansion

gypt is exploring further expansions of the Suez Canal, aiming to finalize a second channel to accommodate increased shipping volumes and prevent disruptions. Initial assessments, expected to take 16 months, will include feasibility, environmental impact, and funding from the Suez Canal Authority's investment allocation. Revenue decline, attributed to Houthi militant attacks, prompts urgency. Prospective expansion builds upon ongoing efforts since the Ever Given incident. The Suez Canal, a vital source of foreign currency, saw a \$8.2 billion investment in a 2015 expansion project.

Source: WCN Editorial. (2024, March 5). Egypt is studying further expansions of the Suez Canal. Reuters. <u>Source: Egypt is studying further expansions of the Suez Canal</u>





Qatar Airways Cargo Streamlines Operations with Single-Type Aircraft Fleet

n a strategic move aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and sustainability, Qatar Airways Cargo has embarked on a new phase of fleet transformation. The airline has retired its entire existing fleet and opted for a unified fleet consisting solely of Boeing 777F aircraft,



with the Boeing 777-8 slated to become its primary workhorse in the future.

"To bolster its fleet, Qatar Airways Cargo has placed an order for 34 Boeing 777-8F aircraft, with an option for an additional 16, as part of its expansion strategy," the spokesperson added (Sourabh, 2024). This decision comes as the airline seeks to build upon its existing fleet of 27 Boeing 777 Freighters, with the imminent addition of the 28th 777F scheduled for later this month.

Source: Sourabh, P. (2024a, March 9). Qatar Airways cargo transitions to a single-type fleet of aircraft. The STAT Trade Times. <u>https://www.stattimes.</u> com/air-cargo/qatar-airways-cargo-transitions-to-a-single-type-fleet-of-aircraft-1351453

Asian Market Air

Air Freight

Silk Way West Expands Freighter Fleet

n a testament to its dedication to sustainability, Silk Way West Airlines has announced the procurement of an additional Boeing 777 freighter, further bolstering its fleet expansion efforts.

Originally committing to five 777 freighters in April 2021, the Baku-based freighter carrier has now revised its agreement to include an extra aircraft, citing its ongoing "commitment to sustainability" as a driving factor. (Brett, 2024) Of the six freighters in total, two have already been delivered, with the remaining slated for delivery by 2027. The newly announced aircraft is expected to join the fleet in 2025.



Source: Brett, D. (2024b, March 18). Silk way west continues freighter fleet expansion with another 777. Air Cargo News. <u>https://www.aircargonews.net/</u> airlines/silk-way-west-continues-freighter-fleet-expansion-with-another-777/

Fracht GROUP

Asian Market (Air Freight

Exporters Feel Pressure as Air Cargo Congestion Mounts in Delhi and Mumbai

A irlines are grappling with substantial cargo backlogs at major international airports in India amidst a surge in volumes, industry updates confirm. The situation is exacerbated by ocean trade diversions and traditional peak seasons for air cargo during March and April, resulting in acute capacity overhang.

India's air exports have witnessed robust growth, with a cumulative expansion of 21% year-on-year from April through February of fiscal year 2023-24, according to industry data. Particularly, Delhi Air Cargo experienced a notable uptick of around 43% last month, driven primarily by ready-made garment volumes, sources have confirmed.



"Carriers have often had to leave scheduled packages behind in recent weeks due to high demand on connections to Europe," sources added (Lennane, 2024). Consequently, airlines have been able to significantly raise rates to Europe and the US in response to the heightened demand and constrained capacity.

Source: Lennane, A. (2024, March 19). Exporters nervous as air cargo congestion builds in Delhi and Mumbai. The Loadstar. <u>https://theloadstar.com/exporters-nervous-as-air-cargo-congestion-builds-in-delhi-and-mumbai/</u>

Oceania Market

Floods Disrupt Transport Links, Urging Federal Action

Inprecedented floods have severed critical transport links, urging a renewed focus on bolstering infrastructure resilience. As articulated by the Western Roads Federation, the recent closures of key highways and rail lines highlight the imperative for federal action to fortify freight resilience. According to a recent article by Dale Crisp, published on The DCN, the flooding has disrupted rail connections on the Nullarbor and necessitated the closure of major highways. Despite previous recommendations from WA's Shipping and Supply Chain Taskforce to enhance policy frameworks for domestic sea-freight operations, recent events underscore the pressing need for proactive measures to mitigate the impact of natural disasters on vital transport networks.

As Crisp reports, "Flooding cut rail connections on the Nullarbor, with the Australian Rail Track Corporation closing the track and suspending services on Sunday night." (Crisp, 2024).



Source: Crisp, D. (2024, March 14). Wa on its own again as floods cut land links - daily cargo news. The DCN. <u>https://www.thedcn.com.au/region/</u> international/wa-on-its-own-again-as-floods-cut-land-links/?utm_ source=DCN+Daily+Newswire&utm_campaign=0d2c1a1381-EM%E2%80%A6

Oceania Market

Cyclone Megan's Impact on Mining Operations and Port Infrastructure

s Tropical Cyclone Megan approached the Northern Territory coast, its ferocity left a mark on the region's infrastructure. According to Abby Williams (2024), a mining company's wharf on Groote Eylandt suffered structural damage as the cyclone made landfall southwest of Port McArthur. Reflecting on the incident, South32 stated, "Severe weather conditions continue to impact the Eylandt and we are closely monitoring the situation," emphasizing the ongoing challenges posed by the cyclone's aftermath. (Williams, 2024)

South32, a key player in the mining and metals sector, reported structural damage to the wharf, prompting

operations to halt temporarily. The Bureau of Meteorology anticipates the cyclone's weakening as it moves inland, transitioning into a tropical low.

This incident underscores the vulnerability of coastal infrastructure to extreme weather events and highlights the importance of safety measures and resilient infrastructure in mitigating such risks.

Source: Williams, A. (2024, March 18). Wharf damaged as cyclone bears down on NT - Daily Cargo News. The DCN. <u>https://www.thedcn.com.au/</u>region/international/wharf-damaged-as-cyclone-bears-down-on-nt/?utm_source=DCN+Daily+Newswire&utm_campaign=14384828d8-E%E2%80%A6



Oceania Market

Enhancing Biosecurity Measures for Rural Imports in Australia

ustralia's biosecurity clearance process for sea freight containers bound for rural areas undergoes a significant transformation.

According to the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry, effective February 16, 2024, there's an expansion of eligible containers for inspection under the Approved Arrangement Class 14.4 – Rural Tailgate Inspection.

This change directly affects customs brokers, importers, and Biosecurity Industry Participants (BIPs) holding approval for this class of inspections. BIPs now have the authority to inspect a broader range of sea containers, including those requiring mandatory treatment before rural tailgate inspection.

ŀ

"This shift aims to streamline import procedures while upholding strict biosecurity standards," states the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry (2024).

Reference: WCN Editorial. (2024, March 1). Expansion of container eligibility for rural inspections in Australia. World Cargo News. <u>https://www.worldcargonews.com/news/2024/03/expansion-of-container-</u> eligibility-for-rural-inspections-in-australia/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_ medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20week%202024-10_



General Fracht News Sources:

Thejoc.com Container-news.com Theuncontained.com Worldcargonews.net Elpais.com Movant.net Splash24.com freightwaves.com elfinanciero.com stattimes.com aircargonews.net theloadstar.com thedcn.com