

MPW SUPPLY CHAIN - INDUSTRY UPDATE - 14TH AUGUST 2024

OCEANFREIGHT | AIRFREIGHT | LOCAL TRANSPORT |
WAREHOUSING/3PL | COURIER |

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND NEWS

GOVERNMENTS MUST "BITE THE BULLET" FOR NET-ZERO, SAYS ICS

The International Chamber of Shipping, in collaboration with the governments of Bahamas and Liberia, has presented a new proposal to introduce a greenhouse gas emissions fee for vessels.

The comprehensive proposal aims to ensure delivery of the "ambitious" UN International Maritime Organization (IMO) target of net-zero GHG emissions by or around 2050. [The DCN](#)

MORE TEARS OVER AROTERE

Cook Strait rail/ro-pax Aratere resumed service yesterday afternoon [11 August] after the Interisland Line curse struck again on Thursday afternoon.

The ferry hit the terminal linkspan as it was berthing in high winds, deeply denting hull plating above the waterline at the vessel's stern. It was immediately withdrawn from service pending repairs involving the insertion of new plating.

KiwiRail said no one was injured and there was no danger to the ship, passengers or the environment as a result of this incident. [The DCN](#)

ONESTOP AND INTERMODAL GROUP STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP AT NEW TERMINAL

Logistics solutions provider OneStop has announced the expansion of its ongoing partnership with Intermodal Group (IMG) to include the latter's newest facility in Kenwick, Western Australia.

Freight logistics specialist IMG will introduce Onestop's Vehicle Booking System (VBS) and OneStop Modal at IMG's new Kenwick Intermodal Terminal, in order to enhance operational efficiency, container movements, and traffic flow. [The DCN](#)

SUPPLY CHAIN NEWS

PILBARA ROAD WORKS TO IMPROVE FREIGHT PRODUCTIVITY

Heavy vehicles make up more than 60% of traffic between Newman and Port Hedland and the construction of 11 overtaking lanes on Great Northern Highway, the primary north-south freight route in WA, will improve freight productivity and safety according to a state government media release from 12 August. [The DCN](#)

PORT STRIKES WOULD EXPOSE AIRFREIGHT'S VULNERABILITY TO A 'CAPACITY CRISIS'

Concern is mounting over the impact of looming US east and Gulf coast port strikes on the nation's airfreight, with e-commerce already hoovering-up capacity as peak season nears.

As reported in The Loadstar last week, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) will finalise contract demands and prep US east and Gulf coast port members for a 1 October strike, should agreement not be reached with employer group the United States Maritime Alliance. [The Loadstar](#)

CHINA TEST-FLIES TWO-TONNE CAPACITY CARGO DRONE - THE BIGGEST YET

China aims to kickstart a 'low-altitude economy' with a twin-engined drone capable of carrying two tonnes.

Developed by Sichuan Tengden Sci-tech Innovation, the drone has the highest-capacity unveiled so far, with a wingspan of 16.1 metres, and acts like a miniaturised fixed-wing aircraft, relying on runway take off. [The Loadstar](#)

CONTAINER EXPLODES ON YANG MING BOX SHIP IN CHINESE PORT

A container has exploded today onboard Yang Ming-owned YM Mobility, at a box terminal in the Beilun Port area of Ningbo-Zhoushan. There are no reports of casualties or injuries to date.

News outlets on Chinese social media platform Weibo said the container held refrigerated organic peroxides, a reactive chemical which is highly combustible and liable to exothermic decomposition, which causes heat that rises as the outside temperature increases.

Some peroxides decompose explosively, particularly if confined, and this can be initiated by heat, contact with impurities, friction or impact. [The Loadstar](#)

SWIFT ACTION PREVENTS 'CATASTROPHIC EVENT' AS ANOTHER EXPLOSION ROCKS A BOX SHIP

Containership fires are still a heightened source of concern for the industry – the latest incident was reported this week, at Sri Lanka's port of Colombo.

Fire broke out aboard the MSC Capetown III in the early hours of Sunday at the Jaya Container Terminal (JCT), according to the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA).

The SLPA said the fire, believed to have started in the under-deck cargo space, escalated to an explosion – only the swift action by firefighters prevented "what could have been a catastrophic event," added the authority. [The Loadstar](#)

CONTAINER RATES EX-CHINA DIP - JUST A GLITCH, AS DEMAND STAYS STRONG

A minor 3% drop this week in the Drewry World Container Index (WCI), continuing a trend which began last week.

Shanghai-US rates were the fastest to dip: Shanghai-LA from a peak of \$7,512 in early July to \$6,501 yesterday; and Shanghai-NY from \$9,612 on 18 July, to \$8,931.

This could be little more than a glitch in an otherwise inexorable rise in rates, akin to that seen in the WCI in Q1, which soon reversed.

Indeed, according to Linerlytica, the port of Shanghai recorded a spike in congestion at the end of July not seen since the beginning of the year, which rather implies there there could be more disruption to come. [The Loadstar](#)

AIR CARGO RATES STILL ON A HIGH, ATSG REPORTS A QUARTER TO FORGET

"Early August has seen something of a boost for airfreight rates, with volumes also on the up. But in this air cargo round-up let us pause for a moment as ATSG announces declining second-quarter profits and revenues.

Starting with the upward trends, WorldACD's week 31 figures showed strong demand – driven by e-commerce and ceaseless supply chain disruptions – had led to a year-on-year bump of 12% for both rates and volumes. [The Loadstar](#)

AIR CARGO RATES STILL ON A HIGH, ATSG REPORTS A QUARTER TO FORGET

"Cargo owners that haven't made firm arrangements to move peak season cargo out of Asia by air are running out of options, warns logistics provider Dimerco.

Most direct, reliable freighter capacity has already been snapped up, it said.

Capacity on long-haul routes out of China and other countries in East and South-east Asia has been tight, driven by strong demand for e-commerce and a shift of container traffic from ocean to air, a result of extended transit times, congestion, limited capacity and soaring container rates, Dimerco notes in its latest airfreight market report. [The Loadstar](#)

UK ADVERTISING REGULATOR RAPS VIRGIN OVER DESCRIPTION OF PIONEERING 100% SAF FLIGHT

Virgin Atlantic has become the latest carrier to be rapped over promotional claims regarding the environment, specifically over descriptions of its pioneering transatlantic sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) flight last November.

The carrier conducted the Boeing 787-9 flight from London Heathrow to New York JFK with its engines powered solely by SAF, rather than the current regulatory limit of a 50% blend.

A Kuehne+Nagel (K+N) shipment was onboard the flight to promote the fuels use in reducing emissions when transporting cargo.

But a Virgin Atlantic radio advertising campaign leading up to the November 28 flight had stated that it would be the "world's first commercial airline to fly transatlantic on 100% sustainable aviation fuel". [Air Cargo News](#)