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AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND NEWS

MUA WARNS OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION AT QUBE PORTS

The Maritime Union of Australia has warned of "imminent" industrial action at Qube's bulk and general port operations, beginning in Melbourne, Port Kembla and Brisbane.

The MUA on Monday unveiled a raft of work stoppages and bans its members plan to escalate at the ports this week, against employer Qube amid wage negotiations. Bans have already commenced in Melbourne. [The DCN](#)

ICS LAUNCHES GUIDE TO SHIPBOARD INSPECTIONS

The International Chamber of Shipping has launched the first edition of A Practical Guide to Shipboard Inspections.

The publication is designed to help the maritime industry prepare for and manage port state, flag state, class, port health, masters and ITF inspections, among others.

It draws from interviews with current inspectors to give officers, crews and superintendents an understanding of how to work with inspectors and surveyors and prepare for each type of inspection. [The DCN](#)

MAERSK SHEKOU DEPARTS FREO AS INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE

Maersk Shekou departed Fremantle just six days after being involved in the allision that saw STS Leeuwin II dismasted and requiring repairs.

The Singaporean-flagged container ship Maersk Shekou departed Fremantle on 5 September at approximately 2045 hours, with the incident having occurred around 0615 on 30 August.

[The DCN](#)

SUPPLY CHAIN NEWS

INSURANCE CLAIMS ON THE RISE WITH BOX SHIPS FORCED TO BRAGE CAPE WEATHER

There has been a prolific rise in weather-related cargo loss and insurance claims since carriers have been forced to brave the extreme conditions round the Cape of Good Hope to escape Houthi attacks in the Red Sea.

Conventional wisdom has it that ships should avoid heavy storms where possible to minimise the risk of container loss, but the past 270-or so days of re-routing have seen vessels exposed to extreme weather off southern Africa. [The Loadstar](#)

ILA CHIEF VOWS TO FORM GLOBAL 'MEGA-UNION' TO FIGHT PORT AUTOMATION

The US International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) president Harold Daggett has vowed to initiate strikes on 1 October if agreement is not reached with the "far apart" port operators' United States Maritime Alliance (USMX)

And, he said, he intends to take on all the major carriers by forming a global 'mega-union'. [The Loadstar](#)

SERVICES SET TO SHUT DOWN AS 'SUPER TYPHOON' HEADS FOR SOUTH CHINA

China is bracing for the arrival of 'Super Typhoon' Yagi, expected to be the strongest storm to hit the country in nearly a decade.

The typhoon hit the Philippines earlier this week, but has since doubled in strength, and according to the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO), Yagi now carries sustained winds of 210kph near its centre.

[The Loadstar](#)

FMC APPROVES GEMINI COOPERATION DESPITE ANTI-COMPETITIVE 'CONCERNS'

The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) has admitted to "questions and concerns" over whether the Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd Gemini Cooperation will have anti-competitive consequences.

Following a statement saying the FMC had reviewed the cooperation agreement, "within the statutory timeframe" and had decided not to seek an injunction against the deal? the only tool at its disposal? FMC chairman Daniel Maffei put out another statement. [The Loadstar](#)

SHIPPERS SEEK ALTERNATIVES AS US EAST COAST PORT STRIKE LOOMS

While North American shippers and forwarders nervously await the next developments in the apparent stand-off between dockworkers and terminal operators on the US east coast, carriers' network planners will be drawing up alternatives should a port shutdown take place. However, a recent analysis by the eeSea liner database of how shipping services responded to the threat of a widespread rail strike in Canada provides some indication of how carriers may react to a US east coast port strike. [The Loadstar](#)

NEW STRINGS ATTACHED - SHIPPING SHAPES UP FOR 2025 WITH PREMIER ALLIANCE LAUNCH

The structure of the global container shipping alliance next year is set for a further shake-up after MSC unveiled its new standalone east-west service network and revealed it has concluded a vessel-sharing agreement (VSA) with THE Alliance, covering nine Asia-Europe services. The pivot point is February 2025, when the 2M partnership of MSC and Maersk is set to disband, while at the same time Hapag-Lloyd will depart THE Alliance to form the Gemini Cooperation with Maersk - at which point, the remaining three THE Alliance carriers - ONE, Yang Ming and HMM - will rebrand as the Premier Alliance and enter into a slot-share agreement with MSC covering the Asia-Europe trades. [The Loadstar](#)

CONTAINER LINES STILL SEIZING THE DAY

Despite what is being described internationally as a "correction" in container freight rates ANZ trades are still seeing notifications of general rises, peak season surcharges and other fee increases.

ANL Container Line will be implementing a rate restoration program from 15 September, at USD 500 per 20' dry/reefer & USD 1000 per 40' dry/reefer for all shipments from North & East Asia to Australia's East Coast, Fremantle, Adelaide and New Zealand. [The DCN](#)

EASA DEMANDS INSPECTION OF AFFECTED A350 ENGINES AFTER CATHAY INCIDENT

The European Air Safety Agency (EASA) is requiring that certain A350 aircraft undergo a one-off inspection, following Cathay Pacific's discovery of a fault in an engine component.

Cathay's A350-1041, furnished with Rolls-Royce Trent XWB-97 engines, experienced an engine fire shortly after take-off from Hong Kong on 1 September.

The Air Accident Investigation Authority (AAIA) of Hong Kong is investigating the incident, and EASA said it was taking "precautionary measures" as a result. [The Loadstar](#)

Q4 AIR CARGO SURGE EXPECTED, BUT E- COMMERCE WILL DOMINATE CAPACITY

A busy Q3 for airfreight has heightened expectations that a Q4 surge will be stronger than anticipated, with freight rates and surcharges to match.

Lufthansa Cargo told The Loadstar in mid-August: "This time of the year is normally considered a low-season period. Despite that, this year we are witnessing higher rate levels compared with the historical average. [The Loadstar](#)

'AGGRESSIVE' ECOMMERCE GROWTH HAMPERED BY LACK OF AIR CARGO CAPACITY

Airlines will be forced to get creative with their networks as air cargo's predicted two-year demand growth will create an "unprecedented state", with limited capacity. During today's EU CBEC ecommerce forum at Liege airport, CEO of market intelligence platform Rotare, Ryan Keyrouse, said: "If e-commerce growth continues aggressively, we are going to be in an unprecedented state; the highest two-year growth average we've had in recent decades." [The Loadstar](#)

FORWARDERS WARN OF AIR CARGO PEAK SEASON CAPACITY CRUNCH

Freight forwarders are warning of an air cargo capacity crunch out of key Asian markets during the peak season as new product launches and e-commerce demand put pressure on an already strained market.

In its latest update, Taiwan-headquartered company Dimerco said that the rise in e-commerce demand experienced this year was putting extra pressure on capacity as online marketplaces had signed deals directly with commercial airlines. [Air Cargo News](#)