

MPW SUPPLY CHAIN - INDUSTRY UPDATE - 23RD JULY 2025

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

AUSTRALIA & NZ NEWS

AI LENDS FREIGHT FORWARDERS A HELPING HAND

Cargo.one has introduced AI-powered automation and smart workflows to streamline the quoting process for freight forwarders. The new system improves efficiency and speeds up quote turnaround times, leading to higher conversion rates. Key features include AI extraction of shipment details, comprehensive rate management, and integrated workflows. This allows forwarders to prioritize opportunities, access all necessary rates, and sync quotes directly to their TMS, resulting in faster quoting without switching between tools. [THE DCN](#)

TAURANGA'S ELECTRIFYING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Port of Tauranga is investing over NZD 3.5 million in New Zealand's first all-electric straddle carrier, co-funded by the Government's Low Emission Transport Fund. The trial, starting in late 2027, aims to test the technology's operational impacts, emissions reduction, and reliability. If successful, it could lead to a significant reduction in the port's carbon emissions. Findings will be shared with other New Zealand ports. [The DCN](#)

PORTS AUSTRALIA NOMINATED FOR SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

Ports Australia has been nominated for the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) Sustainability Awards for its leadership in decarbonisation. The nomination recognizes the development of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Guidance for Ports, created in partnership with Worley Consulting. This guidance helps ports measure and manage emissions across Scopes 1, 2, and 3, supporting their efforts to decarbonise. The winners will be announced in October 2025 at the World Ports Conference in Kobe, Japan. [The DCN](#)

SUPPLY CHAIN NEWS

AUGUST 'BOOMERANG' FOR 'LIBERATION DAY' TARIFF RATES

On 1 August, US tariffs will revert to 'Liberation Day' rates for most countries, but negotiations with China are progressing well. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent confirmed the deadline and noted that higher tariffs will apply, but talks will continue. Constructive discussions with China may lead to an extension of the 12 August deadline for US tariffs on China. Bessent emphasized the need for China to open up and balance its economy. [The Loadstar](#)

CHINA AND THE US FIND ALTERNATIVES AS THEIR ECOMMERCE AIRTRADE PLUNGES

Despite trade tensions between the US and China leading to a decline in air cargo shipments, both countries have found alternative markets. Chinese e-commerce exports to the US dropped significantly, but overall exports increased due to growth in Europe and Asia. US importers also sourced shipments from other regions, with notable increases from Vietnam and Taiwan. The charter market remains active, driven by geopolitical tensions and trade disputes. [The Loadstar](#)

CANADA AND MEXICO GET COSY WITH TRADE PLAN TO BYPASS US

Canada and Mexico are finalizing a plan to bypass the US, reducing transshipment tariffs and taxes to boost trade between them. This new land and sea trade corridor could cost the US \$245 billion over five years, impacting taxes, indirect benefits, and employment. The corridor, expected to be fully operational by 2028, may attract non-North American trade and remain viable even if the US returns to rules-based trade. [The Loadstar](#)

MSC SHOPPING SPREE FOR NEWBUILDS CONTINUES, AND YANG MING JOINS IN

MSC continues to strengthen its position in the carrier rankings with orders for six more 22,000 TEU ships, including four at Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding and two at Hengli Heavy Industries. The newbuildings, costing around \$210 million each, will be delivered between 2028 and 2029. Meanwhile, Yang Ming has commissioned seven 15,000 TEU ships from South Korea's Hanwha Ocean. These newbuildings will replace aging vessels and reduce GHG emissions by 20% compared to traditional fuel. [The Loadstar](#)

CHARTER MARKET CALMING, BUT OPEN TONNAGE STILL 'AS RATE AS HENS' TEETH'

The charter market is slowing as operators take a patient and selective approach amid an expected demand downturn. Despite reduced activity due to the summer holiday, good-quality open ships remain scarce. Port congestion in North Europe and the Red Sea crisis keep tonnage in demand. However, there is hope for relief on tight tonnage and elevated rates, with some discounting for 2026 positions. Overall, the market appears calmer, but activity remains beneath the surface. [The Loadstar](#)

TRANSPAC GRIS FAIL TO PROP UP UNDER-PRESSURE CONTAINER SPOT FREIGHT RATES

The recent implementation of transpacific General Rate Increases (GRIs) failed to lift container spot rates on the eastbound transpacific route. Despite GRIs ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per 40ft, rates on the Shanghai-Los Angeles leg of Drewry's World Container Index (WCI) fell by 4% to \$2,817 per 40ft. Other indices showed similar declines, with the Shanghai-US west coast base port leg down 2% and the Far East-US west coast leg down 8%. [The Loadstar](#)

MSC TO LAUNCH OWN ANZ-NORTH AMERICA SERVICE

MSC will launch a standalone Australia/New Zealand-East Coast North America service in February 2026, replacing a 15-year-old slot-charter agreement with Maersk. The new Eagle service will employ 11 ships on a weekly rotation, including ports like Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Tauranga, and more. MSC is marketing the service to ANZ customers, highlighting connections through Panama to Europe, Central and South America, and USA Gulf ports. Further operational details will be released when finalized. [The DCN](#)

US PLACES AIR CARGO RESTRICTIONS ON MEXICO

The US government has imposed restrictions on Mexico's air cargo and passenger operations due to alleged violations of the 2015 U.S.-Mexico Air Transport Agreement and anti-competitive behavior. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) claims Mexico has not complied with the agreement since requiring cargo operations to shift from Benito Juarez International Airport to Felipe Angeles International Airport. Mexican airlines must now file schedules with the DOT and obtain approval for large passenger or cargo aircraft charter flights. [Air Cargo News](#)

ANTONOV AIRLINES FLIES MODERNISED AN-124 OUT OF KYIV

Antonov Airlines has successfully flown a modernized An-124-100 aircraft out of Kyiv, following extensive work to replace Russian-built onboard equipment with Western and Ukrainian counterparts. The aircraft, which had been in a disassembled state during the Russian invasion of Ukraine, was completed in June and flew to Leipzig on 11 July. This modernization effort symbolizes the stability, professionalism, and unity of Ukrainian aircraft manufacturers. The aircraft will now operate on international routes for Ukraine. [Air Cargo News](#)

BOEING BEGINS 777-8 FREIGHTER PRODUCTION

Boeing has started production on the 777-8 freighter by drilling the first hole into a wing spar, with the first aircraft delivery expected in 2028. About 100 teammates were present at Boeing's 777X Composite Spar Shop in Everett, Washington, for the milestone. The 777-8F, initially anticipated to come to market in 2027, was delayed until 2028. Customers have ordered 59 777-8Fs since Boeing launched the program in 2022, with Qatar Airways as the launch customer. [Air Cargo News](#)

NEGOTIABLE AIR CARGO DOCUMENT GAINS UN COMMISSION APPROVAL

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) has approved a draft convention for negotiable air cargo documents. This convention aims to create a harmonized legal framework for negotiable documents of title across all modes of transport. It addresses a legal gap that has hindered seamless door-to-door transportation services. The draft convention will be recommended for adoption by the United Nations General Assembly in late 2025. [Air Cargo News](#)