



Shipping Line Schedule Reliability

Schedule reliability continued its decline last month, maintaining the downward trend seen since the beginning of 2024. The persisting practice of vessels sailing around the Cape of Good Hope has contributed to an increase in the average delay for late vessel arrivals, which now stands at 6.01 days. The top shipping lines are averaging a schedule reliability of 51.6%. In March, the Australian market experienced a cancellation rate of 6.25% for scheduled sailings, with 6 out of 96 sailings affected. While cancellation rates have been decreasing month by month in the Australian market, this positive trend is one we hope will persist.

Port of Baltimore

On March 26th, a cargo ship collided with the Francis Scott Key Bridge at the port of Baltimore. This incident has disrupted vessel access to one of the USA's largest ports for international cargo, prompting immediate redirection of cargo to alternative ports and necessitating adjustments for upcoming vessels. As of Thursday, April 11th, efforts to remove debris from the site and move containers from the vessel continue, aiming to gain access to the portion of the bridge that lies on top of the ship. Thirty-eight containers have been removed so far, and sixty-nine vessels have been able to transit through the port since the incident via temporary alternate channels.



Panama Canal

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) announced in March that it would increase the number of daily transits from 24 to 27 per day, effective March 25th, in response to the current and projected levels of Gatun Lake. The ACP anticipates that transit levels through the canal will return to "normal" by September as rains return to the region. Contingency plans are underway to avoid a repeat of the issues in the future, including talks of constructing a new dam to channel water through the canal and maintain water levels. This initiative would also allow for an additional 11-15 passages each day.

Upcoming Public Holidays

S.A.L. will be closed on Thursday, April 25th, and Monday, May 6th, for the ANZAC Day and Labour Day Public Holidays. We will resume normal operating hours the next business day. Please direct all queries regarding orders and shipments during this period to cs@salglobal.au or operations@salglobal.au.

Did you Know? Shippers Letter of Instruction

Shippers Letter of Instruction (SLI) is a crucial document in international shipping, providing detailed instructions from the shipper to the freight forwarder or carrier. It contains essential information such as the consignee's details, shipping method, cargo description, and handling instructions. SLIs ensure smooth logistics operations, helping to streamline the movement of goods and prevent errors or delays during transportation. Without SLIs, there's a risk of miscommunication, leading to incorrect handling of cargo, delays in delivery, and movement of dangerous goods. This oversight could result in potential financial losses for both shippers and recipients if these crucial details are not included. Therefore, SLIs are indispensable for efficient and effective international trade.

A copy of our SLI is available through the link below, or on the resources page of our website.

[S.A.L. Global's SLI - Click Here](#)

