



Shipping Line Schedule Reliability

Schedule reliability has been consistently declining month-on-month since the close of 2023. Contributing factors to these delays include the DP World Industrial Action at major Australian ports, the ongoing situation in the Red Sea, and congestion resulting from the backlog of containers at tranship ports due to blank sailings and schedule modifications. The current average delay for late vessel arrivals is on the rise, currently standing at 5.02 days.

In February alone, there has already been a 15% cancellation rate for previously planned sailings, closely following January's cancellation rate of 19%. Anticipated challenges for the remainder of February include the commencement of Chinese New Year, the recovery from the industrial action, and the impact of ongoing blank sailings.

Chinese New Year 2024

Chinese New Year is underway, beginning on Saturday, February 10th, and concluding Saturday, February 17th. We extend our gratitude once again to all our clients for proactively submitting their documentation and orders well in advance, enabling bookings to depart prior to the supplier and national closures.

As we enter the following week, we anticipate blank sailings and longer response times to emails as China resumes regular operations. Our Customer Service team remains committed to keeping you promptly informed about any new bookings scheduled to depart after the Chinese New Year.

Incoterms 2020

Incoterms, short for International Commercial Terms, are a set of standardized trade terms used in international commerce to clearly define the responsibilities and obligations of buyers and sellers during the shipment and delivery of goods. The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) releases these terms to facilitate smooth transactions and avoid misunderstandings.

These terms cover various aspects of the shipping process, including the transfer of risk, responsibility for transportation, and the point at which the buyer takes ownership of the goods.

There are 11 Incoterms in total, each represented by a three-letter code. Here are some commonly used ones:

EXW (Ex Works): The seller makes the goods available at their premises, and the buyer is responsible for all transportation costs and risks.

FOB (Free on Board): The seller is responsible for the goods until they are loaded onto the ship at the port of departure. From that point on, the buyer assumes the risks and costs.

CIF (Cost, Insurance, and Freight): The seller covers the cost, insurance, and freight to deliver the goods to the destination port. Once the goods are on the ship, the risk transfers to the buyer.

Incoterms 2020 play a vital role in international trade by providing a common language for buyers and sellers to communicate and understand their roles and responsibilities throughout the shipping process.

Use S.A.L.'s [Incoterms 2020](#) guide for full list of Incoterms and responsibilities.

DP World

After enduring four months of disruptive industrial actions at DP World terminals in Australia, a four-year agreement has finally been reached between the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and DP World. The agreement was announced on Friday, February 2nd, following three days of facilitated negotiations before the Fair Work Commission (FWC).

This new agreement includes fair pay, safety and fatigue management measures, and provides job security and a fair work-life balance for employees.

This development brings a sense of relief to the logistics and shipping sectors, fostering hope for improved operations and stability in the near future. Despite this progress, there remains a backlog of approximately 50,000 containers across the four terminals. It is anticipated that this backlog will be cleared by March.

DP World Oceania's Executive Vice President, Nicolaj Noes, expressed "This agreement is a testament to our commitment to our workforce and to providing uninterrupted services to our customers. We are now focused on moving forward, restoring the supply chain operations, and working collaboratively with our employees to rebuild confidence among our customers and make a positive impact on the national economy."