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## **Panama Canal**

The water situation in the Panama Canal is prompting necessary adjustments by the Panama Canal Authority (ACP), leading to reductions in the number and weight of vessels passing through. This will impact shipments between the Americas and Australia. In response to current and projected water levels, some shipping lines are considering changes in alignment with the ACP to mitigate the impact on clients and ensure the stability of the Panama Canal.

To adapt, shipping lines and vessels will bypass the canal and utilise a "land bridge" employing rail transport for cargo over the 80 km span of Panama. While this shift will cause delays, collaboration between shipping lines and the ACP aims to minimise the impact on the supply chain.

### S.A.L. Online Portal

Did you know you can customise your Default Reference ID for your dashboard and shipments pages? In the settings tab, it's easy to set your Default Reference ID to match your unique order numbers, ensuring effortless visibility. This means your order numbers will appear as the first column, streamlining your view. To learn more about our online portal, email us at cs@salglobal.au.

# **Chinese New Year**

We would like to thank all our clients for sending through their bookings before the end of 2023 in preparation for Chinese New Year beginning the 10th of February. If you still have bookings that need to be sent through, please send to the Customer Service team as soon as possible.



### **Marine Insurance**

Marine insurance stands as a crucial safeguard within the maritime industry, offering protection against a myriad of risks associated with cargo transportation (coverage based on individuals policy). This specialized form of insurance encompasses coverage for various marine-related perils, including damage to ships or vessels, loss, or damage of cargo during transit, as well as liability risks arising from maritime activities. The fundamental principle of marine insurance is to provide financial security to shipowners, cargo owners, and other parties involved in maritime commerce against unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances.

Policies within marine insurance are tailored to cater to the diverse needs of the maritime sector, offering coverage options such as hull insurance, cargo insurance, and liability insurance. Hull insurance typically covers physical damage to vessels caused by accidents, natural disasters, or collisions, while cargo insurance protects against loss or damage to goods transported by sea. Moreover, liability insurance shields against legal claims arising from third-party bodily injury, property damage, or environmental pollution caused by marine operations.

Given the inherently risky nature of maritime activities, marine insurance plays a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth functioning of global trade, providing peace of mind to stakeholders while facilitating the movement of goods across international waters.



### **DP World**

The recent DP World industrial actions have garnered significant attention from Australian media, shedding light on the profound impact on our economy.

On January 8th, DP World declared their refusal to tolerate work bans, announcing the docking of workers' pay from January 12th for those participating. Notably, this announcement coincided with negotiations between the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and DP World scheduled for the following day. However, on January 12th and 15th, there was a noticeable withdrawal of industrial action.

As of the 17th of January, there has been an extension until January 30th with the continuation of 2 hour stoppages and work bans.

We aim to minimise the impact to our clients where possible. If you would like more information, please contact our Customer Service team - cs@salqlobal.au.