



Golden Week

Golden Week in China will run from 1–7 October 2025, with factories, offices, and many logistics providers shutting down across the country. This annual holiday typically leads to significant congestion before and after the shutdown, as production slows and port operations are limited. Shipping lines have already announced eight blank sailings at the start of October to manage capacity and align with reduced manufacturing activity.

We strongly recommend that customers finalise their orders, documentation, and shipping instructions well in advance of this period to minimise delays. Preparing early will help ensure smoother handling of your shipments and avoid complications caused by reduced staffing and service interruptions.

Australia Post Update – Services to the U.S. Resume

Earlier in September, Australia Post temporarily suspended postal services to the U.S. and its territories following sudden changes to U.S. customs and tariff rules. This decision, which affected many international postal operators, was taken to ensure compliance with the new regulations.

Australia Post has now confirmed that services to the U.S. and Puerto Rico will resume on 25 September 2025, following the implementation of new systems to meet U.S. Customs requirements. Businesses can once again send goods via Australia Post's standard channels, with solutions in place to manage the updated tariff and customs processes.

Source: FTA

Rate Restoration

Shipping lines have announced consecutive rate restorations of USD \$300 per TEU and USD \$600 per FEU on 1 September, 15 September, and 1 October 2025. These back-to-back increases come as shipping volumes rise ahead of the peak season and the Golden Week holiday period, both of which are expected to drive stronger demand and upward pressure on freight rates.

New U.S. Service Fees May Impact Trade Costs

Effective 14 October 2025, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) will introduce new service fees on vessels owned, operated, or built in China calling at U.S. ports. These charges will be phased in over several years, with annual increases planned through 2028.

While these measures apply to imports into the United States, Australian importers and exporters should be aware that they may influence routing decisions, vessel deployment, and ultimately the cost of trade to and from the U.S.

Some carriers have confirmed they will maintain service coverage without immediate surcharges, but other lines may adjust pricing or services as costs rise in the coming years.

We will continue to monitor carrier announcements and keep you updated on any changes that may affect your shipments.

Source: FTA

Global Schedule Reliability and Port Congestion

Global congestion continues to weigh heavily on supply chains. North China hubs such as Shanghai, Ningbo, and Qingdao are seeing vessel delays of up to four days, while Southeast Asian ports including Singapore and Port Klang are experiencing yard congestion and waiting times of one to five days. European gateways such as Hamburg, Antwerp, and Rotterdam are also reporting multi-day holdups due to labour shortages and rail disruptions.

Closer to home, Sydney and Fremantle remain the most affected by weather-related closures and vessel bunching, with delays of up to two days, while other Australian and New Zealand ports are also reporting moderate disruption.

Overall, while schedule reliability shows small improvements, global and regional congestion continues to present challenges for Australian importers and exporters.

Source: FTA

ICS2 Final Phase: New EU Cargo Data Requirements from 1 September 2025

From 1 September 2025, the European Union's Import Control System 2 (ICS2) will be fully implemented across all modes of transport. This final phase extends beyond air and sea freight to now include shipments entering or transiting the EU Customs Territory (EU27, Switzerland, Norway, and Northern Ireland) by road and rail.

Under ICS2, all shipments bound for or passing through the EU must comply with mandatory advance cargo data submissions. Incomplete or late information could result in delays, penalties, or even refusal of cargo entry, so it's critical that shippers provide accurate data well in advance of shipping deadlines.

The Global Shippers Forum (GSF) and FIATA have released updated guidance with clear instructions on:

- The information shippers need to provide so we can lodge accurate Entry Summary Declarations (ENS) on your behalf.
- How to prevent data quality issues that could lead to shipment delays.
- The importance of working closely with your freight forwarder to meet the EU's new compliance requirements.

With ICS2 now fully rolled out, success will depend on timely collaboration between shippers and S.A.L. Global to keep cargo moving smoothly into the EU. Our team is here to guide you through the changes and ensure your shipments remain compliant.

Source: FTA

10 Years of S.A.L. – What a Celebration!

On the 6th of September, we raised a glass (or two!) to celebrate a milestone that means the world to us, 10 years of S.A.L. Global Logistics.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our amazing clients, industry partners, and the dedicated S.A.L. team who joined us for an unforgettable evening. Your support over the years – whether you've been with us since day one or joined us along the way – has helped shape who we are today.

