



NEWSFLASH

29 DECEMBER 2017

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DURBAN PORT CONGESTION UPDATE

I am sure after all the chronic port delays experienced in November and December which has very seriously affected all importers, those of you who are returning to work next week will be seeking an urgent update on the status of the port. We are still experiencing delays in berthing as anticipated, especially for those vessels scheduled for New Pier, however at last we are seeing a steady and slow improvement in dealing with the backlog. Whilst we are nowhere near caught up and back to normal it is a huge relief to see at least small daily improvements and we will give a further update next week. Our association representing the freight industry has been hard at work over the last few weeks with all stakeholders to push for the relevant resources to stem this shocking state of events which has seriously impacted all industries and they are in touch with all possible press avenues to further add pressure to the port organisations. Sadly, as is the norm at this time of year we have had a few shut down periods over the last week due to wind and this is further hampering the discharge and turnaround of vessel. SCT continue to do all we can in the circumstances to monitor the scenario, secure trusted berthing data, keep you updated and obviously expedite deliveries once available.

ROAD FREIGHT CONGESTION AND LIMITED TRUCKING RESOURCES

The added effect of the port congestion is that many consignments planned for November and early December have now berthed over this festive period where importers are closed, and ports and truckers are working shortened weeks. We are still seeing significant queues within the port precinct to collect and drop off containers, and shipping lines who have been equally affected by the port inefficiencies are showing little negotiation on demurrage free days. Unfortunately, the port has also made decisions on certain stack blocks to prevent truckers from collecting until the 2nd January as an effort to deal with the queues – see below extract from a mail just received:


Dear Valued Customer,

*Please be advised that all Import Containers that are stacked in Blocks **B2, D2, D3, F2, G2** will only be available for collection from the **02 January 2018 at 06h00**. Kindly do not dispatch trucks to these blocks as they will be turned away.*


Kind regards



Customer
Transnet Port Terminals

 031-361 1150

Interaction

 031- 361 1715

Centre

Added to concern is that fact that all truckers are working with reduced compliment of drivers (especially over the long weekends and on long distance moves) and also have to deal with stored containers that have to be accommodated for next week's deliveries. The result is that securing trucking space is a real struggle but be assured SCT and our valued partners in trucking are dealing with our volumes and our clients are getting priority service.

AIRFREIGHT SPACE AND RATES

As you will have noted airfreight space into South Africa on all routes was chronic over the December period with many airlines closed to bookings for December in November already to allow them to deal with backlog. We believe this to be due partly to the normal peak for airfreight over this period but more significantly to do with customers having to airfreight emergency stock to deal with Sea Freight delays. The result was an obvious chronic shortage of space but also a platform for airlines to ramp airfreight costs to never before heard of levels. We are pleased to advise that whilst space is still an issue from some European airports, to a large degree the backlog has been dealt with on most routes and we are already seeing airfreight rates returning to levels enjoyed in November 2017.

2018 WISHES

May we take this opportunity to thank all our valued clients for their support in 2017. We seriously value our partnerships with you and look forward in anticipation to strengthening these even further in 2017. We wish you and all your staff the very best for 2018, may it be filled with success, peace health and a port that works. Please be assured of our continued passion to your supply chain processes and we will continue to strive to offer service and rates that leave us without piers in this sector.



We thank you for your continued support and partnership

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