

# CANADA Daily News and Updates October 5th 2023

## Air Updates

- Qantas IT Blunder Leaves Corpses in Coffins on the Tarmac in Australia

## Ocean Updates

- Port of Halifax Weather Watch: October 7 and 8
- Mexican Logistics Infrastructure Struggles as Delays Hit Lazaro Cardenas
- Container Pileup in Russia

## International Business/Government

- Transnet's Tribulations

## Air Updates

### **Qantas IT Blunder Leaves Corpses in Coffins on the Tarmac in Australia**

Qantas' freight division has suffered a catastrophic system failure that left dead bodies, live animals and perishable food unable to be collected from airports in Australia.

Cargo operations were sent into disarray after Qantas attempted to switch on a "new, fully integrated cloud-based" management system on September 24, which "did not go as planned", according to a letter sent to freight customers.

The airline's freight customers said the meltdown has cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars over the past 10 days. Qantas workers have been forced to process shipments manually, causing backlogs of domestic and international deliveries at Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne airports.

Cargo customers said they have had to wait for up to a week to collect goods needed by their clients the day after landing in Australia, with unrefrigerated fresh produce and pharmaceuticals ruined.

A Qantas spokesperson said the IT issues had been resolved on Tuesday and the domestic backlog had been cleared, but that international deliveries continue to be affected.

Read more in an [article from WA Today](#).

## Ocean Updates

### Port of Halifax Weather Watch: October 7 and 8

Adverse weather conditions are forecast for October 7 and 8 in the Halifax area. The Port of Halifax has issued a notice indicating that pilot and terminal operations may be affected on those days.

Information will be available in the [Port Operations Centre](#). Up-to-date forecasts are available on the Environment Canada [website](#).

### Mexican Logistics Infrastructure Struggles as Delays Hit Lazaro Cardenas

On September 29, Hapag-Lloyd issued a customer advisory warning of delays at the port of Lazaro Cardenas – cargo moving to and from the port hit by congestion at the Hapag-Lloyd and APM terminals.

The news was hardly a bolt out of the blue. Mexico's largest Pacific port has suffered from congestion for more than three months, partly the result of a surge in car shipments, but problems with the rail system have also affected box traffic.

Volumes started to build after trucker protests in early August at the access points to the Ferrovalle intermodal terminal in Mexico City, a vital bottleneck for cargo between the capital and major ports. Truckers – most owner-operators – staged protests over pay, but they also vented their frustration with constraints in serving the Ferrovalle facility.

Their actions resulted in a pile-up of containers at Lazaro Cardenas and, by late August, more than 5,000 were stranded at the port.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

### Container Pileup in Russia

As Russia grapples with the western sanctions one year after the invasion in Ukraine, China supports by bolstering bilateral trade between the two nations. Container xChange, the online container logistics platform, has offered its assessment of how the trade impacts the global container logistics industry, now and in the future.

"You see a 40ft high cube container being on sale in Moscow for less than \$1,000, while in other parts of the world, it is almost double or even more," said Christian Roeloffs, co-founder and CEO, Container xChange. "This is significant and has a tremendously detrimental impact on the business of container logistics because of the high imbalance in demand and supply of containers."

Read more in an [article from WorldCargo News](#).

## International Business/Government

### Transnet's Tribulations

The turmoil and uncertainty at South African rail, port and pipeline company Transnet continues, with the CEO and CFO the latest to leave the company and the trading performance of its core rail and port divisions in disarray. South Africa's ports are among the most expensive in the world to call at and its freight rail services among the least reliable.

For several years now, Transnet's inability to deal with fundamental operating issues has affected the South African economy and job prospects within it. These have come to a head over the past 18 months or so as staple exports, including coal and iron ore, have declined and, according to the Minerals Council South Africa (MCSA), because of inadequacies in the freight rail network and a failure of Transnet to deal with maintenance issues, theft, vandalism, locomotive availability and reliability. It claims Transnet cost South Africa's main bulk commodity producers ZAR50B in lost revenue in 2022. This year, the impact is likely to be even higher.

Read more in an [article from WorldCargo News](#).