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Air Updates

Shippers Beware: New Rules on Lithium Ion Battery Air Shipments Coming

At the recent meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) dangerous goods panel, it was agreed to introduce a state of charge (SoC) requirement of 30% for more categories of lithium ion batteries being transported by air.

This change will apply to lithium ion batteries packed with equipment – where a device has its battery packed in the same box. Currently the SoC requirement applies only to lithium ion batteries shipped on their own by air.

The change is important, as it comes amid a backdrop of increasing concern around the safety of shipping lithium batteries, particularly as their volume and size continues to grow.

For shippers it will add an additional level of complexity: Making sure batteries are shipped with the correct state of charge will require extra checks and changes to pre-shipping processes.

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

Ocean Updates

No Reservation at Panama Canal? Prepare for a Long Wait

Panama Canal disruptions are worsening. Wait times for vessels without reservations have surged this month.

In response to drought conditions, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) cut the number of daily reservation slots from 32 at the beginning of November to 24 currently. Slots will drop to 22 on Friday, then to 18 by February 1.

If enough ships don't divert from the Panama Canal to offset the drop in reservation slots, the number of ships without reservations rises – as does wait time.

The average wait time for ships without a reservation for Atlantic-to-Pacific (southbound) transits was 2.1 days at the beginning of November. As of Wednesday, it was over five times that – 11.4 days – according to ACP data.

The maximum wait on for southbound transits hit 22.8 days on Sunday, triple the maximum wait at the beginning of the month.

Read more in an [article from American Shipper](#).

International Business/Government

China Eager for Closer Supply Chains and No Decoupling, Premier Li Qiang Tells Inaugural Expo, in Latest Charm Offensive

Premier Li Qiang vowed to build closer supply chain ties as part of China's latest efforts to retain foreign investment amid "de-risking" moves from Western economies.

"We are willing to build closer production and industrial supply chain partnerships with all countries," Li said during the opening ceremony of the inaugural China International Supply Chain Expo on Tuesday in Beijing.

He warned of "challenges and risks brought by protectionism and uncontrolled globalization," and said China would continue to create an international and rule-of-law-based business environment.

Foreign businesses have been moving investments and de-risking their supply chains away from China due to fears of over-reliance as geopolitical and domestic uncertainties mount.

Read more in an [article from the South China Morning Post](#).