

CANADA Daily News and Updates January 10th 2024

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Air Updates

Customs Officers at Belgium's Liege Airport Step Up Strikes as Cargo Backlogs Grow

Talks took place yesterday in a bid to end the long-running industrial action by 250 customs officers at Liège Airport (LGG), protesting at what they claim is a deterioration in their working conditions.

Warehouses at the Belgian gateway are reported to be overflowing with shipments as a result of work-to-rule strikes by customs officers that began almost a month ago.

According to one labour union official, since December 11, customs officers have carried out daily checks on just 300 parcels instead of the normal 10,000, which has led to a backlog estimated at 120,000 parcels, plus another 6,500 very small parcels whose value needs to be checked for customs duty purposes.

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

Ocean Updates

Port of Halifax Weather Alert

Due to adverse weather conditions forecast for today, the Port of Halifax has noted that its pilot and terminal operations may be affected.

Shippers Spooked by Fear of Box Shortages amid Carrier 'Opportunism'

The message from ocean carrier operations centres is to urgently evacuate as much equipment as possible from Europe and the U.S. back to Asia on the first available sailings.

Exporters from Europe and the U.S. have hitherto enjoyed an abundance of containers provided by carriers, as depots have for some time been brim-full of equipment of all types.

However, there will now be concerns that there could be a repeat of the post-COVID demand boom, when lines opted to reposition boxes to Asia, to take advantage of sky-high headhaul rates, rather than allocate them for export use.

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

Maritime Decarbonization Efforts Propelled as Orders for Alternative-Fueled Vessels Grow

The latest stats from DNV's Alternative Fuels Insight (AFI) platform found that a total of 298 ships with alternative fuel propulsion were ordered in 2023 – an 8% increase year on year. The year also saw methanol go mainstream, with a sharp increase in orders (138) putting it neck and neck with LNG (130). Additionally, 2023 marked a breakout year for ammonia, with 11 orders for vessels run on this fuel, and more in the pipeline.

Faced with increasing pressure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including stricter targets set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in July 2023, the maritime sector is considering a range of decarbonization options. Through its AFI platform, DNV registers the industry's efforts related to newbuild vessels and retrofitting with 298 orders for vessels able to run on alternative fuels logged in 2023, and a total of 1,281 ships overall.

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).

Rail and Truck Updates

B.C. Wants Ottawa to Close 'Semi-Truck'-Sized Commercial Trucking Loophole

B.C. is pairing tougher measures against commercial truck companies whose vehicles hit overpasses with calls for tougher measures to prevent companies from skirting safety rules across provincial lines.

B.C. Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Rob Fleming called on federal counterpart Pablo Rodriguez to fix the current system, which has allowed one company to use vehicles licensed in Alberta to operate in British Columbia.

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