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PORTS AND TERMINALS

## PORT OF IMBITUBA INCLUDED IN BRAZEX SERVICE'S PORT ROTATION

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On January 9th, CMA CGM announced a rotation change to its Brazil Express service, known as Brazex, from Portonave to the Port of Imbituba. The service's first call, with the vessel Hans Schulte, is scheduled for February 25th. The line operates weekly, with ships from CMA-CGM and Cosco Shipping, traveling the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

With the change, the service will now call at the ports of Veracruz (Mexico), Houston and New Orleans (United States), Kingston (Jamaica), Cartagena (Colombia), and Santos, Paranaguá, and Imbituba (Brazil). On the return journey, the vessels will stop at Santos and also at Rio de Janeiro and Salvador before heading back to Mexico.

According to international trade players, the service will make 52 stops per year, moving about 80,000 TEUs in and out of Imbituba, which will officially announce its entry to the line's rotation soon. The change is said to be associated with the renovation works occurring at Portonave.

Maritime professionals lamented the opportunities forsaken by the loss of Brazex, considering that the Port of Itajaí still has an empty container yard and, thus, could easily absorb part of the demand. “It means reduced cargo in our bonded or general warehouses, less movement in the entire chain,” commented a sector agent.

In Itajaí, Mada Araújo, the winner of the temporary lease contract, postponed the resumption of container operations until May, when it expects to have already received customs clearance from the Federal Revenue Service to receive the first batch of ships. The company says it continues with repairs and renovations, adapting the terminal for operations.

On January 8th, the company’s executive director, Marco Antônio de Araújo, said that negotiations are underway with four shipping companies. Without citing names, he stated that they are dealing with companies already present in the port complex and that do not want to migrate from the region. He mentioned that CMA CGM and Cosco Shipping were among this group.

*Source: Diarinho.net*

*Click here to read the original news report: <https://diarinho.net/materia/650735/Complexo-portuario-de-Itajai-perde-linha-para-o-porto-de-Imbituba->*