

CANADA Daily News and Updates February 14th 2024

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Air Updates

Demand Rush Sparks Temporary Ban on Imports at Bangkok Airport

A surprise surge in air cargo demand in Asia has led to ground handler Bangkok Flight Services (BFS) announcing a temporary embargo on imports at Bangkok Airport (BKK), just 24 hours after a similar situation in Dubai.

BFS said: "Due to unprecedented volumes of cargo, due to the Red Sea crisis resulting in a modal shift from sea to air, and a higher-than-expected surge prior to Chinese New Year, we have built up a backlog of cargo for processing and have had to suspend processing of imports of general cargo."

The temporary embargo is scheduled to last until February 18.

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

Ocean Updates

First Rays of Optimism Are Shining on South Africa's Struggling Ports

From Durban's shoreline, the immediate horizon of the Indian Ocean is still decorated with freight vessels on anchorage, waiting for berthing slots in South Africa's largest port, a legacy of several months' of port congestion. Although it was hoped the backlog could be cleared by late January, industry experts now say the whole of February is needed to clear the congestion at the country's eight main ports that has seen shipping rates soar and some major lines pare down port calls.

But in a sector beleaguered by over a decade of difficulties, including neglected infrastructure, aging equipment and a stagnated economy, that maritime horizon looks set to start clearing metaphorically as well as literally, with local industry favourite Michelle Phillips taking the helm as the acting CEO of Transnet National Ports Authority.

“We’ve seen some really good moves from Transnet in recent months, especially with changes to the executive board, which have helped a lot,” said Jacob van Rensburg, R&D head of the South African Association of Freight Forwarders. “It’s very promising and good things are starting to happen, but this is against a backdrop of 10 to 15 years of stagnation, so a lot of hard work is taking place behind the scenes.”

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

Rail and Truck Updates

Quebec Issues Spring Thaw Dates

Quebec's Ministry of Transportation has published the anticipated [thaw period dates](#) for the three [Thaw Zones](#) across Quebec. During thaw periods, heavy vehicles travelling on the road network must reduce their loads, in accordance with the limits imposed by the [Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation](#).

Find more information [here](#).

CPKC Intermodal Network Update – Week of February 12

Service highlights this week

CPKC expects seasonal operating conditions across its intermodal network this week.

Asset forecast this week

- 53' dry equipment supply is adequate across the network
- DRP supply is tight in Lachine
- 53' heater supply is tight in Lachine
- Reefers supply is adequate in Canadian terminals
- Customers are encouraged to use the Equipment Guarantee Program, to protect supply where necessary

Operational performance

Click [here](#) to review CPKC key metrics for the week ending February 10.