CANADA Daily News and Updates June 27th 2024

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Ocean Updates

Idle Containership Fleet Dips to Pandemic-Era Lows as Carriers Hunt Tonnage

As global demand for box ship capacity continues to dramatically outstrip supply, the number of idled vessels is down to numbers not seen since the pandemic.

According to new Alphaliner data, in the first half of the year, commercially idle tonnage represented an average of 0.7% of the container shipping fleet, "harking back to levels seen during the pandemic," it reported.

Stanley Smulders, director of marketing and commercial for ONE, said: "If you look at all the statistics, there are no ships idle. All the shipping lines are in need of ships at the moment."

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

Unions Seek Immediate Action to Protect Seafarers in the Red Sea

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and seafarers' unions around the world are demanding immediate action to ensure the safety of seafarers in the Red Sea due to rising ship attacks.

"We demand immediate action to ensure the safety of seafarers in the Red Sea, action which, to date, has been lacking and which could have prevented the unnecessary deaths of seafarers," the ITF said in a statement marking the IMO's Day of the Seafarer.

The ITF calls for governments, shipping companies and flag states to coordinate efforts to protect seafarers, and not to rely solely on certain navies for protection. It's also urging that ships be diverted to keep seafarers out of harm's way.

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

Technology

20 of World's Biggest Companies Collaborate to Modernize Bar Code

It's hard to believe the bar code is turning 50. Anyone who was a cashier in the '80s knows how life-changing it was to scan the product instead of typing in the product category and price. Designed to make checkouts faster, the bar code also became a supply chain technology to track products. But has the bar code topped out in terms of efficiency in providing supply chain data?

After five decades, the neutral organization that oversees bar code usage, GS1 US, is working with regulators and brand leaders like Pepsico and Procter & Gamble to enhance product information within scalable technology. Amazon and Walmart, which are on the organization's board, and Target, which is on its executive leadership committee, are also weighing in on how to transition from the bar code to the QR code.

"The bar code is a huge part of our everyday life," said Carrie Wilkie, SVP of standards and technology at GS1 US. "Bar codes are scanned ten billion times a day! But bar codes are one-dimensional, meaning it can only provide information moving from Point A to Point B. There are other types of bar codes being used, like QR and DataMatrix codes, which can provide access to additional information like product batch numbers, and granular information like serial numbers of medical devices so doctors and patients know exactly which product is being used, where it was manufactured and when."

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