

CANADA Daily News and Updates July 15th 2024

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Shortage of Reefer Boxes Plays Havoc with India's Export Schedules

Indian cool chain shippers could miss some export order commitments to western buyers for the upcoming holiday season because of their inability to secure sufficient reefer containers.

While an equipment shortage was expected to be widespread in the context of longer turnaround times, the pressure seems to be especially worrisome on refrigerated boxes.

“Reefer inventory is becoming a major challenge for all trades [out of India],” said one sales executive at a leading carrier. “But we are able to provide dry containers almost normally now,” the source claimed.

The executive said there were efforts to reposition more reefer containers into India to mitigate the developing crisis for shippers and forwarders.

Other carrier sources cited inventory management challenges. One senior operations manager at a European carrier said: “We are operating in abnormal times.”

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

FMC Defers Approval of Maersk-Hapag Cooperation for Competitive Review

The U.S. Federal Maritime Commission on July 12 reported that it is deferring its review and approval of the proposed Gemini Cooperation between Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd. The commission said it requires additional information on the “potential competitive impacts of the arrangement”; both Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd responded saying it is “fairly standard” from the FMC, noting the cooperation is not due to begin till February 2025.

“The Commission has determined that the Gemini Cooperative Agreement as submitted lacks sufficient detail to allow for a complete analysis of its potential competitive impacts,” the FMC wrote in its statement. It is invoking its Request for Additional Information, which defers the approval that otherwise would have happened 45 days after the filing. The commission will also now conduct a 15-day public comment period.

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

Rail Updates

CIRB to Issue Decision on August 9

The Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) informed CPKC and CN on July 12 that it intends to issue its decision regarding the Ministerial Referral on the maintenance of activities by Friday, August 9. The CIRB will issue the decision without holding oral hearings.

This development helps provide some predictability regarding the timelines for a potential work stoppage because the parties cannot legally take strike or lockout action prior to the CIRB issuing its decision and must then provide a minimum of 72 hours' notice.

CPKC update: The railway has asked the CIRB to extend the cooling-off period by 30 days and has proposed to the union that the parties resolve this labour dispute through binding arbitration.