

# CANADA Daily News and Updates January 17th 2025

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## Ocean Updates

### Port of Montreal Activities Back to Normal

Two months after operations fully resumed at the Port of Montreal, as directed by the Canada Industrial Relations Board, the Montreal Port Authority (MPA) has announced that all port activities are now completely back to normal. Both the impact of the labour dispute and the subsequent resumption of activities required concerted efforts on the part of all port partners to get things back to normal as quickly as possible, even over the holiday season.

Read more in a [Port of Montreal press release](#).

### Gaza Ceasefire Deal Sparks Hope for Red Sea Shipping Security, But Houthis Maintain Hard Line

A ceasefire agreement between Hamas and Israel, set to begin this Sunday, could potentially ease maritime tensions in the Red Sea region, though Houthi rebels in Yemen remain firm on their conditions for ending attacks on commercial vessels.

The deal establishes a six-week initial ceasefire and includes the gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.

Maritime stakeholders are closely monitoring the development, as the agreement could be a turning point for vessels in the Red Sea region, where ships have endured numerous drone and missile attacks since October 7, 2023. These attacks have forced much of global trade to divert around the Cape of Good Hope, significantly extending voyage times while raising both costs and emissions.

However, Houthi forces in Yemen have set strict conditions for ceasing their maritime attacks. A spokesperson stated their military actions will only stop when “all military operations by the IDF are stopped, the siege on Gaza is lifted, humanitarian aid is allowed to flow freely, occupied

territories in the Gaza Strip are withdrawn, and all military actions by the UK, U.S. and Israel in Yemen are ended.”

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

### **Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd See No Immediate Return to Red Sea**

Two of the world's top shipping companies, Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd, said on Thursday they do not see an immediate return to the Red Sea after the ceasefire between Hamas and Israel was announced.

Both companies said they would be closely monitoring the situation in the Middle East and would return to the Red Sea once it is safe to do so.

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

## **Rail and Truck Updates**

### **CN Launches New Medium Horsepower Hybrid Locomotive Pilot Project**

CN has announced the launch of a new medium horsepower hybrid electric locomotive developed in collaboration with Knoxville Locomotive Works. This hybrid locomotive will undergo testing in various operational conditions across CN's network as a pilot project, to evaluate its potential to enhance operational efficiency and fuel savings, marking another step towards more modern and sustainable rail operations.

The 3,200 medium horsepower hybrid unit is built on the traditional CN low horsepower locomotive operating in yards and branch lines. It includes a modern control system, increased horsepower of up to 60%, powered by a 2.4MWh-700HP battery-diesel engine, that is 100% biofuel ready.

The hybrid system targets up to approximately 50% reduction in fuel consumption compared with a typical locomotive used in similar operations today. CN expects this initiative will help drive the advancement of hybrid technology in locomotives and contribute to immediate emissions reductions.

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

## International Business/Government

### National Barriers Put a Strain on Incoterms® 2020 Rules, ICC Finds

According to a new 2025 [report from the International Chamber of Commerce](#) (ICC), international trade is becoming increasingly complex as countries erect barriers to widely used shipping terms.

The findings highlight mounting challenges to adopting the International Commercial Terms rules (Incoterms®) – the globally recognized set of rules that define responsibilities between buyers and sellers in international trade. First established in 1936, the most recent and widely used set of Incoterms are the Incoterms® 2020 Rules, set out by the ICC.

These three-letter codes, such as CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) and DDP (Delivered Duty Paid), serve as a universal language for global commerce, helping companies avoid costly misunderstandings about who bears the risks and costs at each stage of a transaction.

However, the January 2025 study reveals that dozens of nations have erected barriers to these widely used terms, particularly around insurance and customs clearance requirements. The restrictions are forcing companies to rethink how they structure international sales contracts and potentially increase costs and complexity.

Read more in an [article from Trade Finance Global](#).