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Ocean Updates

Congestion at Vancouver Worsens – But It's Not All the Port's Fault

Congestion at Canada's west coast gateway of Vancouver is set to worsen in the coming weeks due to a combination of restricted access to inland rail links and deteriorating liner schedule reliability as the alliance reshuffle continues.

German carrier Hapag-Lloyd told customers on February 19: "Both CPKC Rail and CN Rail have implemented tiered operating restrictions in response to severe winter weather across Canada. These measures include shorter trains and reduced speeds, which have resulted in minor delays.

"These conditions are expected to last another 10-14 days, resulting in increased Import dwell times," it added.

The carrier said utilization at Vancouver's GCT Delta terminal had reached 102% and vessels were "experiencing berth delays of nine days," while utilization at DP World Centerm was at 83%, with berthing delays of between four and nine days.

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

Salvage Teams Board Stranded MSC Vessel as Bad Weather Hampers Progress

The Canadian Coast Guard is reporting that severe winter weather, including ice, high seas and winds, is hampering the efforts of salvage teams to complete an assessment of the conditions of the *MSC Baltic III*, which went aground on the western shore of Newfoundland on February 15. The teams are trying to develop a salvage plan as concerns are rising as "ripples" have been spotted on the hull of the 680-foot (207-metre) containership.

A spokesperson for the Canadian Coast Guard said they are trying to determine if the deformation on the hull came from the grounding or if the vessel is moving on the rocky shoreline. Salvage crews were able to board the ship on Monday, but on February 18, they encountered 3-metre (10-foot) seas and 30-knot winds. The Coast Guard reports two attempts were made to get aboard but called off due to safety concerns.

The owners of the vessel are reportedly working with the Coast Guard and are looking to bring in additional salvage resources. The Telegram newspaper in Newfoundland reports the owners have retained offshore service vessel Avalon Seas to assist in the salvage and are considering hiring a larger, salvage tug.

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

DCSA Releases Final Versions of Booking 2.0 and Bill of Lading 3.0 Standards

Digital Container Shipping Association (DCSA) – a neutral, non-profit organization composed of 10 of the largest ocean carriers driving standardization and digital innovation in container shipping – has announced the release of the final versions of its Booking 2.0 and Bill of Lading 3.0 standards.

These milestone updates will streamline data exchange between shippers and carriers, significantly reducing administrative burdens, minimizing errors, and cutting costs across the industry. The enhanced standards introduce critical features that bolster security, regulatory compliance and efficiency.

Read more in a [press release from DCSA](#).

St. Lawrence Seaway Opening / Closing Dates of the 2025 Navigation Season

The 2025 navigation season on the St. Lawrence Seaway is scheduled to begin on March 22. Ship transits will be subject to weather and ice conditions.

The target closing dates for the 2025 navigation season are as follows:

- Montreal / Lake Ontario Section: January 5, 2026 (Year 2 of the pilot program)
- Welland Canal: January 10, 2026

Truck Updates

Thaw and Load Restrictions: Quebec Announces Target Dates

Quebec's Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility has published the dates when load restrictions will apply to heavy trucks in the different regions of the province.

For spring 2025, target dates are:

- Zone 1: From Monday, March 17 (00:01) to Friday, May 16 (23:59)
- Zone 2: From Monday, March 24 (00:01) to Friday, May 23 (23:59)
- Zone 3: From Monday, March 31 (00:01) to Friday, May 30 (23:59)

Depending on the evolution of weather conditions, the start and end of the load restriction period may be brought forward or delayed.

Read more in an [article from Transport Routier](#) (translated from French).

International Business/Government

Trump Adds Lumber to List of Goods Facing Tariffs Over 'Next Month or Sooner'

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he will announce fresh tariffs over the next month or sooner, adding lumber and forest products to previously announced plans to impose duties on imported cars, semiconductors and pharmaceuticals.

Trump said he was thinking about a 25% tariff on lumber and forest products, to take effect around April 2, when a tariff on autos of around the same amount is expected.

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