

Stricken Maersk Sana continues to ‘drift safely’ in western Atlantic

More than two weeks after the container ship suffered an engine explosion Atlantic Ocean the crew are still waiting for a tug to arrive from Europe.

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May 13, 2025



Credit: Marcus Hand

The 21-year-old *Maersk Sana* remains adrift and a tug from Europe will only arrive ‘in the next several days’ the Danish shipping company said in an update

The 8,450 teu *Maersk Sana* was struck by an engine room explosion on April 28, injuring three seafarers, one of them seriously. The vessel has continued to drift with only auxiliary power for 15 days.

The company would not respond to questions yesterday, but said that ‘a tugboat is currently enroute to the vessel, with an expected arrival in the next several days. Upon arrival, the tug will connect to the vessel and commence a towing operation to a port of refuge in the Bahamas, with an expected arrival in the last week of May’.

Observers had initially questioned the container line’s strategy in hiring a tug to cross most of the Atlantic Ocean from Europe. At that time, [Maersk](#) said “we wanted to employ a ‘first time right’ approach, we had to find the right tug for this operation, not necessarily the closest tug”. The company has not revealed details of the tug it is hired.

So far, Maersk has been lucky with the weather. “Our monitoring teams continue to track weather developments and operational progress to ensure safe and efficient handling throughout this operation,” the company said in its statement yesterday.

Related: [Maersk hires tug from Europe to rescue powerless Maersk Sana](#)

The company revealed that the crew member who is in a US hospital remains in stable but critical condition and is receiving the best possible care. One of the three seafarers was treated on board, and another crew members was evacuated but not seriously injured.

Maersk said: "As we always do in such cases, we have initiated an investigation into the incident, which currently is ongoing, and we are currently in close dialogue with the relevant stakeholders. While the investigation is ongoing, we cannot go into further details about the incident. Safety is of paramount importance and will be an important part of our investigation. We remain in communication with our customers about mitigating impacts of their supply chains."

The vessel underwent a Port State Control inspection by the [US Coast Guard](#) on April 16 in the Port of Charleston where no deficiencies were found. P&I insurance is with Oslo-based Skuld.