



TOMAX
NEWS

Issue 108
2nd December 2022

PLUS:

TOMAX SHANGHAI - NAME CHANGE AND NEW ADDRESS

Please be advised that the Tomax Group has made some changes to our Shanghai operation. As of 25th November 2022 the company name has changed to Tomax Logistics (Shanghai) Co Ltd (查瑞希国际物流 (上海) 有限公司).

We have also moved to a larger office located at Room 607, 368 Hongguan Road, Hongkou District, Shanghai. Email addresses remain the same for our Shanghai operations team and they will continue to provide the Tomax style of service you are used to.

Thanks for your continued support of the Tomax Logistics Group!

TARIFF CONCESSIONS GAZETTE (TC)

Tariff Concession Orders (TCOs) are an Australian Government revenue concession that exists where there are no known Australian manufacturers of goods that are substitutable for imported goods.

The weekly Tomax Client Newsletter will contain a link to the latest Gazette document so that you can stay updated.

[CLICK TO VIEW LATEST GAZETTE](#)





LATEST NEWS

BIOSECURITY ACT AMENDMENTS SEES FINES INCREASE

This week, new amendments were made to the Biosecurity Act 2015 which will see an increase in penalties for breaches of the act. This seeks to enable the government to react swiftly to biosecurity threats. Failure to comply will now result in an on-the-spot fine of \$4400 or civil penalties of up to \$266,400. Murray Watt, minister of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, believes the following changes will ensure Australia can adapt and respond to evolving risks and meet the challenges of the next decade and beyond.

Mr Watt said, “biosecurity threats are increasing due to a rise in the volume and complexity of trade, the effects of climate change and the ever-increasing worldwide spread of pests and diseases. The new measures will strengthen Australia’s biosecurity system, helping to protect out \$70.3 billion agricultural export industries, protect 1.6 million jobs across the agriculture supply chain, and protect our way of life.” He added that biosecurity risks can present in many ways at airports, mail centres, ports and northern coastline, stating, “early identification and assessment of such risks remains fundamental to a responsive and effective biosecurity system. The measures will also be used to target and respond to future threats which could potentially include lumpy skin disease, African swine fever or Xylella.”

Additionally, Mr Watt believes the amendments would also increase a range of penalties for behaviour that results in unacceptable risks of diseases and pests

entering and establishing in Australia. He explained, “under the previous penalties scheme, individuals who attempted to conceal high risk goods, including within their luggage were subject to the same penalties as individuals who conducted less serious behaviour. This may include actions such as sewing goods into the lining of their suitcase or placing goods within a container with incorrect markings or labels. People who jeopardise Australia’s biosecurity system by failing to comply with these new requirements will face civil penalties of up to 1,200 penalty units, or \$266,400. If hit with an infringement notice, they will have to pay \$4440 – nearly \$2000 more than previously issued.”

Mr Watt said the amendments would help the government enforce important lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic by expanding pre-arrival reporting requirements, to ensure our biosecurity officers have accurate information to assess the biosecurity risk associated with the arrival of vessels and aircraft. He continued, “operators and persons in charge of these aircrafts and vessels who do not comply with the requirements will be subject to tougher sanctions of up to \$222,000 for an individual or \$1.1 million for corporate bodies, to better reflect the seriousness of these crimes. This government will not tolerate behaviour that jeopardises Australia’s agricultural industries, our food supply chain, and our unique way of life.”

Ackerman, I. (2022). Biosecurity Act Amendments Increase Fines. Retrieved from <https://www.thedcn.com.au/news/bulk-trades-shipping/biosecurity-act-amendments-increase-fines/> on 30th November, 2022.

BIOSECURITY ALERTS & CHANGES THIS WEEK

A composite image featuring fresh mushrooms in a metal bowl at the top and a bowl of powdered mushrooms at the bottom. The background is a rustic wooden surface with a piece of parchment paper and a small cup visible on the right side.

NEW IMPORT PATHWAY FOR POWDERED MUSHROOMS

Effective from 1 December 2022

Following a review, powdered mushrooms are no longer included in the dried mushrooms pathway. All imports of powdered permitted mushrooms (excluding extracts) for human consumption will have their own pathway separate from dried mushrooms and processed mushrooms. These pathways include powdered permitted mushrooms in individual packages over 25kg and powdered permitted mushrooms in individual packages under or equal to 25kg.

Who does this notice affect:

Importers and brokers of mushrooms for human consumption, freight forwarders, biosecurity officers.

Further information:

Please contact Plant Import Operations on 1800 900 090 or email imports@agriculture.gov.au.

This Change applies to the following Cases:

Mushrooms for human consumption

INDIA/AUSTRALIA TRADE AGREEMENT SUMMARY

Here is a summary below of the new Trade Agreement between India and Australia:

- Need authority issued COO to be able to claim duty free rate
- Non-Party invoicing is allowed. The exporter shall indicate “non-party invoicing” and the name, address and country of the company issuing the invoice shall appear in a separate column in the COO
- Consignment provisions are in place in that shipments can transit through a non-party as long as they aren’t altered.
- COOs must meet Annex 4A (min info requirements)
- COOs are valid for 12 months
- COOs apply to single importation
- After 2 years of the FTA both parties may transition to DOOs
- Retrospective COOs are allowed and only can be issued no later than 12 months from the date of shipment

If you want to review all the info on the FTA you can find it on this link: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/negotiations/aifta/australia-india-ecta-official-text/chapter-4-rules-origin>

Click below to access the COO FTA template for your reference.

[VIEW COO FTA TEMPLATE](#)

DFAT (2022). Australia-India ECTA official text. Retrieved from <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/negotiations/aifta/australia-india-ecta-official-text> on 30th November, 2022.





EMPTY CONTAINER MOUNTAINS AT CHINESE PORTS

Empty containers are piling up at Chinese ports, amid a “very quiet” end-of-year shipping season - a complete reversal of the severe equipment shortages experienced during last year’s pandemic-induced cargo spike.

One insider said, “empty containers are piling up at ports including Guangzhou, Yantian, and Shekou. Some say they are already piling up on roads, while others say 90% of box spaces are occupied. Trailer drivers used to bring loaded containers to the terminal and pick up empty containers for the next load. Now, most of the drivers no longer pick up empty containers because there is no ‘next shipment’. Last year, forwarders were standing in a queue for the whole night to fight for an empty container, and joking that the containers were probably worth more than their weight in gold.”

The fourth quarter had been “very quiet” and rates were “so low”, compared with 2021 with quotes ranging below \$1,000 per TEU for other China-Europe lanes. Freight rates from the Far East to Europe, the Middle East and Africa have continued their downward spiral, suffering from the sharpest falls last week, amid “volume weakness across all tradelanes”.

An analyst said, “carriers are pushing for a new round of general rate increases in December, but they are unlikely to succeed if surplus capacity is not removed. Contract rates for the 2023 season appear certain to fall by as much as 80%, as they mirror the drop in spot rates. The SCFI is already down by 73%, year on year. Although charter rates appear to have settled over the past week, there is still excess supply, with an abundance of sublet units available from carriers that are stuck with surplus tonnage. More ships to enter lay-up have appeared, with Matson and Pasha already mothballing their ships.”

Meanwhile, congestion at European warehouses was another challenge as, “for e-commerce goods, unloading is hard as there are limited available slots in EU warehouses. They’re all full, as retailers increased stock earlier in the year because they were afraid of disruptions and delays. But now they cannot sell it all, as consumers reduced spending on shopping this year. Even Q1 next year may not be good.”

Whelan, S. (2022), Decaying demand sees China’s ports building empty container mountains. Retrieved from <https://theloadstar.com/decaying-demand-sees-chinas-ports-building-empty-container-mountains/> on 1st December, 2022.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

MEET DUC TRUONG

GROUP SALES MANAGER
TOMAX LOGISTICS AUSTRALIA

What is your role at Tomax?

Group Sales Manager – a new role focused on group strategic sales growth, development and support, and customer retention.

Name your hobbies/interests?

Trail mountain biking and car track days (driving/racing). I love a good adrenaline rush. Apart from that, it'll have to be quality time with my family and friends.

What is the next travel destination on your bucket list?

Singapore. I've never been and hear so many people rave about it. I'm going for a short trip next year. It'll also be Maddie's first time boarding an international flight. She would be about 19 months by this time, so wish me luck.

Favourite song to dance to?

Pony, Ginuwine. I'm not much of a dancer so don't even imagine...LOL

What instantly puts a smile on your face?

Successfully landing a mountain bike jump and speeding through tight scenic trails at incredibly high speed. Certainly, seeing Julie and Maddie's smiles too.

Your proudest achievement?

Being a first-time dad. It had to be the most challenging and rewarding phase in my life. Not setting the bar too low or anything, but we've survived a year so far. Maddie is still alive, Julie's still around and I'm here. It can only get better, right? I'll take any parenting advice.

If you could only bring one thing to a deserted island, what would it be?

A plane, so I could fly back home. Who wants to be left on a deserted island?



FRIDAY FUNNIES

We hope these jokes put a smile on your face as we approach the weekend!

There is a new trend in our office; everyone is putting names on their food.
I saw it today, while I was eating a sandwich named Kevin.

Why did the birthday boy wrap himself in paper?
He wanted to live in the present.

Why are chemists great at solving problems?
Because they have all of the solutions!

Why should you wear glasses to maths class?
Because it helps with division.

How do construction workers party?
They raise the roof.

Claustrophobic people are more productive **thinking out of the box.**

To the mathematicians who thought of the idea of zero, **thanks for nothing!**

My girlfriend said, "You act like a detective too much. I want to split up." "Good idea," I replied. **"We can cover more ground that way."**

Most people are shocked when they find out **how incompetent I am as an electrician.**

Police have arrested the World tongue-twister Champion.
I imagine he'll be given a tough sentence.

