TOMAX NEWS

PLUS:

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. You can stay up to date with the weekly gazette via the Tomax Newsletter.

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GUIDELINES FOR PORT WASTE FACILITIES RELEASED

Guidelines for countries wishing to set up port facilities for marine litter management have been released by an international maritime organisation partnership program.

The guidelines were developed by the GloLitter partnership, consisting of the IMO and UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and is funded by Australia, Saudi Arabia and Norway. Their publication, "Guidance Document on Conducting Techno-Economic Feasibility Studies for the Establishment of Port Reception Facilities for Plastic Waste", aims to address the issue of marine litter from vessels. The IMO said, "plastic litter has devastating effects on our oceans, marine life and human health. Some scientists warn that, by 2050, the quantity of plastics in the sea will outweigh fish."

The document includes the costs of operating a port reception facility and the potential revenue a reception facility can generate. It also provides tools and guidance for economic assessments and techno-feasibility studies related to port reception facilities for plastic waste created on board ships, such as fishing gear.

The IMO continued, "ports need to cover the costs incurred in collecting and treating the waste received from ships by charging direct and/or indirect fees, and by selling products derived from the waste. In smaller ports with limited vessel calls, it is deemed essential that all ships contribute to the cost of provision of reception facilities, including those ships not actually using them. Reception facilities in large ports are on standby around the clock so that ships that need to discharge waste are not unduly delayed. In smaller ports this would be too costly."

GloLitter was established to assist developing countries in preventing and reducing marine litter, especially plastics, in the maritime transport and fisheries sectors. The project strives to expand government and port management capacities and instigate legal, policy and institutional reforms at the country level by developing mechanisms for sustainability and enhancing regional co-operation.

Williams, A. (2023). NEW GUIDANCE RELEASED FOR PORT WASTE RECEPTION FACILITIES. Retrieved from https://www.thedcn.com.au/news/environment/new-guidance-released-for-port-waste-reception-facilities/ on 30th March, 2023.

RAIL NETWORK AGREEMENT SIGNED

Australian governments and rail industry stakeholders have recently signed a historic agreement to bring the nation's rail network up to date, according to the Department of Infrastructure. In doing so, the key long standing legacy issues of incompatible networks will be addressed. The Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) brings together rail operators, manufacturers, builders and transport ministers to work collaboratively to make rail more interoperable for any future major rail investments.

Since federation, rail has run as a series of independent networks using different rail line widths, signalling systems and rail crew management systems which regularly receive upgrades and new technologies from differing suppliers at varying times. This has led to experienced rail workers being isolated in geographic areas based on these differing technologies, compounding rail skill shortages.

This agreement is notably a critical first step towards addressing these challenges, and supports the productivity and safety measures agreed on by Australian transport and infrastructure ministers in December 2022, including:
• Setting a small number of critical national rail standards
• Aligning the different train control and signalling technologies used along the eastern seaboard
• Reducing the burden that different rail approaches have on drivers, crew, and maintenance workers

This historic agreement recognises that no single technology or party can solve all of Australia's rail challenges and advancing interoperability requires team work and collective thinking by both the government and private sector.

Misuraca, J. (2023). Governments and rail industry sign historic agreement. Retrieved from https://mhdsupplychain.com.au/2023/03/29/governments-and-rail-industry-sign-historic-agreement/ on 31st March, 2023.

ARE SUPPLY CHAINS BEGINNING TO STABILISE?

Supply chains "are finally beginning to stabilise and find equilibrium", according to Maersk, with its Asia-Pacific March update indicating a stronger demand across its network. However, consumers were receiving "mixed signals" on the state of their economies highlighting weaknesses that are of negative influence, such as high inventories and low confidence in future consumer demand.

Focusing on the positives, intra-Asia demand was considerably "healthy" and its services were "running at high to full capacity in most sectors". Additionally, Asia-Africa volumes were "picking up" and as a result, African services blanked after the Chinese New Year period. Maesrk advised a "volume pick up is expected" for both the east coast and west coast South America services on its Asia to Latin America trade routes. The report sheds some optimism regarding recovery on the Asia-Europe tradelanes, stating the Asia-to-the-Mediterranean "demand was healthy".

Although, for the North European markets, consumer behaviour remained "cautious" due to economic uncertainty. During the start of the month, 2M partners Maersk and MSC confirmed the temporary suspension of their AE1/Shogun loop, following the service being blanked for consecutive weeks. Ocean and THEA alliances are expected to suspend loops, but currently they have continued with case-by-case blanking strategies and slidings, which also means diverting some backhaul sailings to Asia on the much longer route via the Cape of Good Hope.

"We will continue to strike a healthy balance on blank sailings, ensuring that we maintain a competitive service offering," said Maersk, "as mainland China continues to reopen we are monitoring the market volume recovery closely and making adjustments as needed."

Meanwhile, on the transpacific, where container spot rates from Asia to the US west coast have stabilised in the past few weeks, Maersk said its US east coast network remained "slightly imbalanced". Short-term rates from Asia to the US east coast continue to decline, with the Freightos Baltic Index (FBX) component dropping another 3.5% last week, to $2,125 per 40ft. Despite this, Maersk claims that the Asia-Pacific retail sector remains "on track for a strong recovery".

The reports definitely showcase more optimism now compared to before CNY, although it comes from the extremely low demand following the holiday. One UK-based forwarder believes the outlook on the North Europe trade lane had improved, adding, "our visibility is clearer now and we are seeing our bookings pick up each week."

Wackett, M. (2023). Supply chains 'finally beginning to stabilise', says Maersk. Retrieved from https://theloadstar.com/supply-chains-finally-beginning-to-stabilise-says-maersk/ on 30th March, 2023.

DIGITIALLY TRANSFORMING THE SUPPLY CHAIN

Peter Jones, Managing Director of Prological, asserts that in 2023, companies that invest in the appropriate technologies will have a competitive advantage in their supply chain, positioning them for long-term success. According to a recent report by Gartner, companies must prioritise cost-effectiveness by utilising the latest technologies available in leading delivery management solutions. The need to adopt and embrace automation in the supply chain is imperative, given the expectations of express deliveries and operational efficiencies. In fact, over 90% of organisations either have, or are planning to, install automation technology in their supply chain in 2023, ranging from robotics to artificial intelligence, Warehouse Management Systems (WMS), and the internet-of-things.

The benefits of automation, including improved efficiency, reliability, and scalability, have been felt across the global supply chain, including in Australia. Since the pandemic, 64% of companies have reported increasing technology investments in their supply chain, with major distributors utilising robotics and AI in warehouses to perform tasks more efficiently and safely. DHL Supply Chain's recent announcement of plans to deploy 1,000 robots to its warehouses by 2025 is the largest Australian investment to date in robotics and automation in the Asia-Pacific region, aimed at supporting faster delivery to customers, improving operational efficiency, and reducing employee workloads.

In today's connected digital world, maximising productivity by reducing uncertainties is a top priority across the supply chain. The adoption of warehouse management systems, as well as advances in big data, AI, and robotics, will have a far-reaching impact in 2023. AI-enabled supply chain management has improved logistics costs by 15%, inventory levels by 35%, and service levels by 65% for early adopters, compared to slower-moving competitors, according to a McKinsey report. Supply chain managers can enhance their decision-making by implementing AI in supply chain and logistics, gaining insights into not only what has happened but also what will happen.

Leading WMS helps manage day-to-day operations in a warehouse, automating the inventory lifecycle, assigning and managing picking processes, and capturing real-time information from order receipt to shipment. WMS vendors are adapting their solutions to the new world of integrated supply chain digitization, offering less monolithic applications accessible via cloud and alternative platforms that are more affordable, adaptable, extensible, and easier to maintain. Lowering the barrier to entry for automation technologies is a major objective in 2023, with software solutions becoming more commoditized, affordable, and accessible.

Digital transformation occurs rapidly across the supply chain, and experts are realising the need to focus more on customer centricity. Digital innovation will continue to drive changes in the supply chain, with automation being an essential element to increase productivity and profitability in the industry. A future-proof automation strategy is crucial for businesses to meet growing e-commerce and consumer demands while also weathering the rigors and unpredictability of the political and geographical landscapes. Successful supply chains in 2023 will embrace technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and intelligent robotics. By leveraging cloud-based solutions, companies will ensure business continuity and respond more quickly and accurately to the needs of their customers with greater agility and flexibility.

Jones. P (2023). 2023: A pivotal year for technology in supply chain. Retrieved from https://mhdsupplychain.com.au/2023/03/29/2023-a-pivotal-year-for-technology-in-supply-chain/ on 31st March, 2023.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

LEWIS MAYHEW
WAREHOUSE HAND
TOMAX WAREHOUSING PERTH

What is your role at Tomax?
My Role at Tomax is a Warehouse Storeperson - mostly picking and packing home wares.

How do you spend your free time?
In my spare time, I love to play and watch Football, spend time with my Niece and Nephew and play video games.

Do you have any fears?
English Mustard - I hate it so much my Dad used to give it to me as a punishment!

If you could only bring one object to a deserted island what would it be?
A rum filled, solar powered radio.

Name what you believe is the greatest invention of all time?
The Internet.

If flights were free, where would you travel to?
Fiji or Philippines- I have always wanted to go to either of these countries.

Name something that instantly puts a smile on your face?
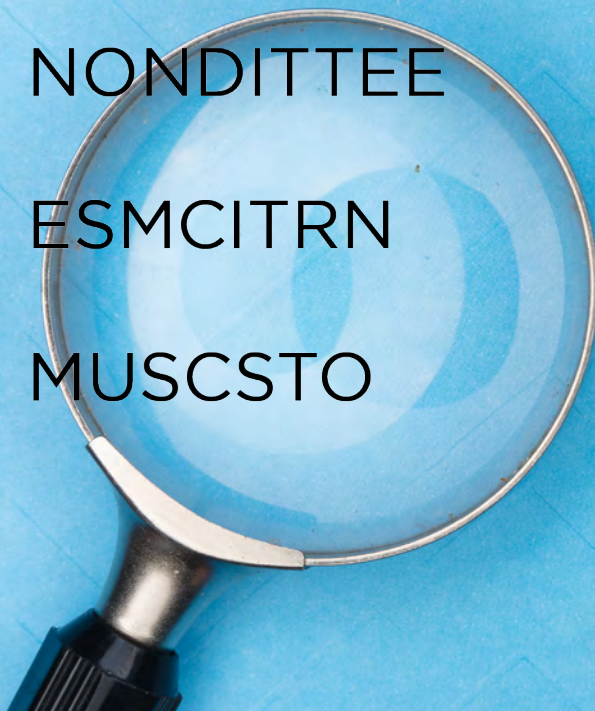Music - I can't help but sing along!

Your most used emoji?
Dog turd!

WORD SCRAMBLE

See if you can unscramble the following words!

1. CFL   F _ _

2. AWHRF   _ H _ _ F

3. IULOFEB   B _ _ F _ E L

4. IRAL   _ A _ _

5. TUNIENQAAR   _ U _ _ _ N T _ _ E

6. ALGLO   _ L O _ _ _

7. ATRMIIEM   M A _ _ T _ _ _

8. NONDITTEE   D E _ E _ _ I _ _

9. ESMCITRN   I N C _ _ _ _ _ _

10. MUSCSTO   C U _ _ _ _ S

Australian HQ
19/202 Ferntree Gully Rd
Clayton VIC 3168

tomax.com.au
1300 186 629
03 9544 4227

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