

# EUROPEAN PORT CONGESTION CAUSING MAJOR DELAYS

Importers continue to face serious delays due to ongoing congestion and supply chain disruption across key North European ports — and the situation isn't likely to ease anytime soon. While there has been a slight improvement in recent weeks, it appears to be only temporary.

Major ports including Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Bremerhaven are under significant pressure, with yard utilisation exceeding 90%. A mix of labour shortages, infrastructure constraints and weather-related setbacks are further compounding the strain.

Hamburg is a particular hotspot, with rail access scheduled to shut down completely from 4th to 8th July. This closure is expected to delay up to 20,000 TEU as containers normally moved by rail will need to be shifted to already stretched trucking services. Meanwhile, strikes, tighter container pick-up windows and reduced barge availability are worsening delays in Rotterdam and Antwerp.

Carriers are reacting by shortening port calls and making last-minute changes to vessel schedules, creating additional uncertainty for shipments. Transit times from North Europe are now stretching out to 55-70 days, with some delays blowing out to as much as 90 days. The ripple effects are also being felt further, with container flows from the UK, China, and North America impacted as global networks adjust to the congestion.

We recommend staying up to date to identify risk areas, prioritise urgent shipments and explore alternative routes or services. If you need any support or advice, please don't hesitate to contact one of our Tomax team members on (03) 9544 4227.





# UPCOMING SYSTEM UPGRADE – VIC PATRICK EAST SWANSON TERMINAL

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**P**lease be informed there will be a planned system upgrade to the OneStop VBS Platform at the Patrick East Swanson Terminal, which may affect some Gateway users. This upgrade is aimed to improve system performance.

## **Upgrade Schedule:**

**Date:** Sunday, 15 June 2025

**Time:** 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM AEST

During this time, Gateway will remain accessible, but you may experience messaging delays relating to Patrick East Swanson Terminal only.

If you have any questions, please contact one of our Tomax team members on (03) 9544 4227.

