



Ocean freight: Difficult situation for intermodal transports

June 10, 2022

Dear customers and partners,

We are updating you today on the situation relating to **intermodal** transports.

The overall situation in the transport sector remains highly problematic, with processing backlogs and delays, overcrowded terminals, system failures, and transport capacity shortages. This situation has also deteriorated further as result of the current strike by employees at northern German ports, which has led to a temporary shutdown of all ports in northern Germany.

In addition, the situation at the ports in Antwerp and Rotterdam has been quite tense for months now. Ship delays, a shortage of empty containers, and disruptions to global supply chains due to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to present huge challenges to companies that operate on the transport and logistics market. For example, ship processing in Antwerp and Rotterdam for inland waterway transports is now being delayed by anywhere between 48 and 192 hours.

We have also been receiving daily reports from northern German ports – and especially Hamburg – about delays that are affecting rail transport operations in particular. This means that trains cannot be processed in some cases and that terminals can no longer guarantee booked time windows, which they then have to change on short notice or else cancel completely.

These disruptions to normal operations have created a domino effect that is impacting inland transports as well. Such imbalances, as well as delayed train departures and arrivals, have led to massive capacity bottlenecks and the loss of time windows. This in turn has resulted in temporary closures, holds on the acceptance of new consignments, and other loading restrictions. In addition, certain construction sites and complete rail line closures are making matters even worse.

Please take the current situation into account when planning your consignments. If you have any questions, your regular customer service partner at DB Schenker will be happy to answer them.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Best regards,

Your DB Schenker team in Germany