

Rotterdam, 30.03.2021

Suez Canal Blockade

Dear Ladies, dear Gentlemen,
Dear partners of Optimodal,

In the last few days, the topic of the blockade of the Suez Canal has also accompanied us intensively in the media.

In the meantime, the container ship has been released and can continue its journey to Rotterdam. Related to this, the other ships lying in the canal have slowly resumed their voyage or will do so again.

The consequences of this accident are already becoming apparent, as our entire industry must now reckon with massive delays for container ships from the Far East. Ships bound for the Far East have also lost valuable time, which will also have a domino effect in terms of time on the return journey to Europe.

At present, we cannot rule out the possibility of capacity bottlenecks in all seaports, but also in inland terminals.

It is already becoming apparent that the COT = Cargo Opening Time will be postponed, which in turn will have a negative impact on deliveries in the terminals of the seaports.

This means that containers must be delivered to the seaport terminals between COT and CCT (Cargo Closing Time) with booking for the respective seagoing vessel. Unfortunately, it is not possible to deliver containers before COT. We assume that due to the dramatic situation, it will not be possible to create exceptions under any circumstances.

Therefore, please allow us the politely but urgent recommendation to follow the respective deadlines yourself on the appropriate web portals. Our organization is working hard to use the CCTs & COTs of the seaport terminals and to use the information there as a basis.

Of course, we will do everything, within our possibilities, to prevent negative effects on the dispatch. Due to the magnitude of the challenges, we unfortunately cannot exclude possible delays.

Therefore, we kindly ask for your understanding that we will not assume any liability for delays and possible resulting costs.

We sincerely thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

With kind regards,

Optimodal Nederland B.V.

