

September 20, 2019

Low Water Surcharge – Rhine River, Europe

Dear Valued Customer,

Europe has been experiencing unusually hot and dry weather, which is leading to increased incidences of low water levels on the Rhine river. The Rhine river is used extensively by ocean carriers to offer lower cost barge/truck solutions to/from inland door locations in Germany, Switzerland and France.

At times of low water levels in the river, barge operators are forced to reduce the cargo payload that they can take per voyage. In order to recover the cost of the voyage, the barge operators have been forced to impose a low water surcharge in order to spread the cost over the reduced number of containers they are able to transport.

The carriers determined this constitutes “Force Majeure”, therefore, the low water surcharge must be passed on to the cargo interests for all barge transports on the Rhine river moving between the ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam and points in Germany, France and Switzerland.

The surcharge will be applied from September 6, 2019 and will be charged as per outlay. The amounts and validity periods will vary based on the water levels and will be charged by the ocean carriers in addition to the original transport tariff for transport via the following terminals:

- Mainz
- Frankfurt am Main
- Ludwigshafen
- Germersheim
- Strasbourg
- Basel/Birsfelden
- Stuttgart
- Trier
- Mannheim
- Woerth am Rhein
- Karlsruhe
- Kehl
- Weil am Rhein

We will continue to monitor the situation and will advise as soon as the low water surcharge has been lifted.

Thank you for being our Valued Customer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact C.H. Robinson for further information.

Sincerely,
C.H. Robinson Global Ocean Services

Our information is compiled from a number of sources that to the best of our knowledge are accurate and correct. It is always the intent of our company to present accurate information. C.H. Robinson accepts no liability or responsibility for the information published herein.

