

March 2, 2020

Europe – Container Equipment Shortage

Dear Valued Customer,

Due to the continued outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and extended holidays in China, there have been numerous blank sailings in the last couple of months from China into Europe. This is due to the fall in demand and lower volumes which has affected capacity for European exports to Asia. The lack of sailings means less equipment arriving into Europe and as result all export bookings in March will face equipment shortages.

Less vessel arrivals from Asia, one of the largest trades for Europe, is causing this shortage of containers and special equipment – especially reefer flows into Europe. This is affecting all ocean exports from Europe and causing additional costs and delays in the current supply chain.

To cover this extraordinary situation the carriers have announced various extra costs such as congestion surcharges, peak season surcharges and equipment imbalance fees. It is difficult to confirm how long this difficult market environment and coronavirus effect will last, but we encourage you to place bookings as early as possible to secure space and equipment in time.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as needed to ensure our customers experience minimal extra charges and delays.

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

