COVID-19 Update: Oceania

Dear Valued Customer,

At C.H. Robinson, we are closely monitoring the current Coronavirus outbreak across Oceania, and it is of vital importance to us to provide you with the latest COVID-19 updates.

Australia

Here are the most recent updates:

- Air freight handling at the Melbourne Qantas terminal:
  - The domestic and international terminals have re-opened with a staged introduction of staff into the facility. The Melbourne freight terminals will operate on a strictly limited basis as they return to regular operations.
  - Qantas Freighter services and International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM) IFAM charter flights operating into or out of Melbourne on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, and Wednesday, August 19, 2020, will be handled through the Qantas Freight international terminal.
  - All other international carriers normally handled by Qantas Freight will continue to have cargo handled through the Menzies facility until Friday, August 21, 2020.

The following remains consistent:

- Currently, there is no impact to the operation and movement of containers at the Port of Melbourne and their terminals.
- Empty container parks have recorded no impact to the receival and collection of containers to date.
- Due to the mandated reduction on warehousing staff, we are expecting slower unpack times at Victorian depots impacting Freight of all Kind (FAK) and Less than Container Load (LCL).
- We are expecting slower response times for quarantine activities conducted by the Department of Agriculture.
- Due to high demand in exports from Chinese ports, there have been reports of equipment shortages impacting outbound freight. We are actively working with our partner carriers to minimise the impact for our customers.
  - There are shortages of 40’ containers. Empty containers are being repositioned into deficit ports as quickly as possible to avoid disruption.
  - As an alternative, Non-Operating Reefers (NOR’s) or refrigerated container in an unpowered state are available, albeit with a reduced capacity than the standard 40’ General Purpose (GP) or High Cube (HC) container.

New Zealand

Here are the most recent updates:

- The Auckland region moved into alert level 3 restrictions from midday, August 12, 2020. The Auckland region has been defined by the New Zealand government as “…everything in the Auckland Council boundary — from Wellsford in the north to Pukekohe in the south.”. Auckland will remain at alert level 3 until Wednesday, August 26, 2020.
The following remains consistent:

- Ports of Auckland, Metroport, Auckland airport, container freight stations, container depots, and transport companies continue to operate.
- NZ Customs have moved to remote working and are not experiencing any reduction in their processing times.
- Movement for people to and from the Auckland region has been closed since midday, August 12, 2020, with transport channels remaining open.
- The Ministry for Primary Industry (MPI) has recorded a 3-day turn-around time for Electronic Biosecurity Authority Clearance Certificate Application (eBACCA) sea cargo.
  - This is expected to stay at 3 days during the level-3 working conditions and the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) season from September 1, 2020.
  - This directly affects Full Container Load (FCL) imports as all FCL’s require Biosecurity Authority Clearance Certificate (BACC) release regardless of cargo or origin.

The below are links to valuable resources:

- World Health Organisation (WHO): https://www.who.int/
- Industry Coordination Centre within the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions: https://djpr.vic.gov.au/
- The Victorian government hotline for COVID-19 business related queries: 13 22 15

C.H. Robinson continues to update customers on the effects of the Coronavirus via the following channels:

- Email: Oceania Industry Update
- Global Resources: https://www.chrobinson.com/blog/
- Direct Communication: Contact from a dedicated C.H. Robinson representative

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.