Capacity Issues at New South Wales (NSW) Empty Container Parks

Dear Valued Customer,

The state of New South Wales (NSW) continues to face Empty Container Park (ECP) management issues leading to delays, redirections, additional handling and rising costs.

An analysis by NSW Ports has identified an imbalance of over 30,000 TEU between full and empty exports and full and empty imports between April to June 2020. Advocacy groups in NSW are advocating strongly for change and performance improvements through the recently convened NSW Empty Container Working Group, a sub-group of the NSW Port Transport Logistics Taskforce (PTLT).

Several factors have contributed to this situation, including weather disruptions, berth congestion due to vessel bunching, vessel rotation changes (some vessels bypassing Sydney), congested stevedore Direct Return of Empties (DRE) pools, and stevedore industrial disputation affecting empty bulk run receivals.

As a result, escalation of shipping line managed re-directions is causing chaos for transport operators with costs generally being passed through the supply chain.

We are working closely with our partner carriers and customers to minimise disruption and will keep you informed of updates as they emerge. We continue to do all we can to mitigate any additional costs to your business, however, there is a possibility that extra charges may be incurred.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the notices held within, please contact your Key Account Manager or a C.H. Robinson representative.

Sincerely,
C.H. Robinson.