

December 2021



OUTSIDE THE BOX

Hi All,

Welcome to another market update – the silly season is well and truly upon us and from all of us here at AUSCUS we would like to thank you again for your business and support over the last year, we would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family an early and safe and joyous festive season.

Christmas Closures – do you have cargo arriving over the Christmas/New Year period?

As most companies will shut down their operations over the Christmas period, we would appreciate if you could please advise us of your Christmas closures dates, or operating hours during the Christmas / New Year period. – this will allow us to work with our suppliers to ensure that we can avoid or minimize any additional charges if applicable. Please get in touch with us so that we can make arrangements for your cargo asap.

AUSCUS Christmas Closure

AUSCUS will remain open as per normal except for the public holidays. However, we will close early on 2 days as per the below:

- Our office will close @ 12noon on Christmas Eve

- Out office will close @ 12noon on New Years Eve

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement – What is it and what does it mean for you?

On 1 January 2022, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) will enter into force for Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Japan, Laos, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

- What is it?
 - o The RECP is the world's largest Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
 - o It will build upon Australia's existing FTA's with 14 other Indo-Pacific countries
- What will this mean for you?
 - o A reduction in duty
 - o An eventual elimination of duty

Chinese Shipping Market

- Rate validity remains 2 weeks at a time.
- Due to an unexpected strong demand in December rates from Shanghai and Ningbo have increased whereas rates from Dalian, Qingdao, Tianjin, Xiamen and Shenzhen have plateaued.
- We do not know exactly what 2022 will bring long-term for shipping rates ex China but we expect to see rates remain at this same level for January 2022....at this stage.
- Book in your shipments as early as possible in order to secure space.

Infrastructure Fee & Empty Yard Fee Increases

As expected, we are receiving more and more notifications from our transport providers regarding increases to Port Infrastructure Fees and Empty Yard Fees (combined as PIF on your invoice) so beginning January 2022 we will be forced to increase our PIF charges.

In other news

- [Government launches inquiry into Australia's over-stretched supply chains - The Loadstar](#)
- [HOT! Productivity Commission review into Australia's maritime logistics system - Shipping Australia](#)
- [Prime Minister Scott Morrison is correct: inefficient ports are a tax on all Australians - Shipping Australia](#)



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