

Wednesday 3 March 2021

Customer Update: LCT Update

As valued LPC customers and port users we would like to update you on the ongoing supply chain challenges and impacts on the Lyttelton Container Terminal (LCT), and how we can work together during this time.

As you have seen in recent months, several Ports across New Zealand and globally have reported periods of heavily congested terminals and yards.

Here at LPC we are proactively monitoring and working closely with Shipping Lines to manage volume. However, this week we are experiencing yard congestion which is affecting all areas of our operation, including vessel operations, rail, and road.

This week has also seen the initial rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination to our border facing staff, which has caused some delays to container terminal operations.

Positively, we have seen congestion ease over the last 24 hours and would like to thank you for your patience and cooperation this week.

How this impacts you:

The ongoing fluctuations in shipping schedules means many containers are being delivered to LCT then rolled to later vessels, impacting LCT by increasing average dwell times. Our current focus is to ensure the terminal can continue to keep cargo flowing, but the speed at which we can do this has been affected due to the significant volume being held.

At this stage we do not plan to change our cargo acceptance rules or demurrage storage charges, but we are monitoring developments and will update you if we need to reduce free time for export cargo arriving at the terminal.

Please consider the following options:

- Use stack runs to pick up import containers – this will reduce the number of unplanned moves needed on the yard
- Book trucks to also pick up a container when one is dropped off (don't forget the consecutive zone feature in VBS if needed)
- Use evening, night, and weekend VBS booking slots – there is normally plenty of capacity at these off-peak times
- Hold export containers for as long as possible on your site before bringing them to the terminal

We are using our network, CityDepot and Midland Port to assist us where possible and at this stage CityDepot and Midland have not been affected by the current delays at the Terminal.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us and thank you again for your continued support and patience.

Kind regards,

Nicole Woodgate
Head of Commercial and Supply Chain