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Ocean Updates

Ships Resume Taiwan Routes Even as China Continues Military Drills

Shipping in the Taiwan Strait began to return to normal on Monday, though China's announcement of a new military exercise near the island signaled that risks remain for the industry.

More than 40 vessels have transited through a China military drill zone south of Taiwan's main port since Saturday, according to ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. The latest ship positions show four of the total six zones being traversed.

Shipping in the Taiwan Strait, a key route for supply chains and commodities, has faced uncertainty and delays since Beijing began its most provocative military drills in decades in the wake of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan last week.

Read more in an [article from Yahoo News](#).

Surcharges Add to Costs of Barging Freight as Europe's Rivers Run Dry

Heatwaves have sent prices “skyrocketing” for container moves along northern Europe's inland waterways and, with little sign of rainfall, things are likely to get worse.

Having already imposed low-water surcharges on certain sections of the Rhine River, Contargo warned “some schedules will not be able to be adhered to.”

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

Rail and Truck Updates

Customs Broker System Outage Delays Truckers at Border

Commercial truck drivers faced long wait times and delays at U.S.-Canada border crossings in Ontario after customs broker Livingston International experienced a system outage.

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) confirmed that the outage was preventing it from providing critical advanced information required by the CBSA for the purpose of clearing commercial imports.

A CBSA spokeswoman said the outage has been resolved and “we are working with our partners at the U.S. CBP, bridge commission, the trucking community and the client to clear the resulting backlog of trucks seeking entry into Canada.”

Read more in an [article from Today's Trucking](#).

STB Says ‘Train Noise’ Would Be Only Negative Environmental Impact of CP-KCS Merger

The Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis determined the only potential adverse impacts of Canadian Pacific's proposed merger with Kansas City Southern would be train noise, according to the STB's draft environmental impact statement (EIS) released August 5. All other impacts were described as negligible, minor and/or temporary.

STB announced its findings as part of a 357-page document, which details its research into potential impacts caused by the proposed merger, including freight and passenger rail safety, grade-crossing safety, grade-crossing delay, truck-to-rail diversion, traffic at intermodal facilities, noise and vibration, air quality and climate change, energy, cultural resources, hazardous materials release sites, biological resources, water resources, environmental justice and other cumulative impacts.

Now that STB has announced its findings, its Office of Environmental Analysis is providing a 45-day public comment period beginning August 12 and ending September 26 to weigh in on the draft EIS.

Read more in an [article from Transport Topics](#).

Canadian Business/Government

Canada Puts in Place Temporary Handgun Import Ban

The Government of Canada has a comprehensive plan to get firearms off our streets and more resources into our communities. A central part of this is the recently introduced Bill C-21. The bill addresses the alarming role of guns in gender-based violence, gets tough on organized crime and, most significantly, introduces a national freeze on the sale, transfer and ownership of handguns, anywhere in Canada.

The government last week announced a temporary import ban on restricted handguns. This will help bring the ultimate impact of the national handgun freeze into force sooner. This temporary ban means that individuals and businesses will no longer be able to import handguns into Canada, subject to narrow exceptions that mirror those in Bill C-21. These restrictions will take effect on August 19, and will last until the national freeze comes into force.

Read more in a [press release from Global Affairs Canada](#).

International Business/Government

China Halts Dialogue with the United States. What Does This Mean for Canada?

China announced suspension of dialogue with the United States in a number of areas on Friday, countering the recent visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Not only has dialogue been cut on climate change and between theatre-level military commanders, cross-border crime and drug trafficking exchanges have also been ceased.

With such an “un-transparent” regime, it could be hard to predict what lies ahead for Canada’s diplomatic relations with China, says Josephine Chiu-Duke, professor at the University of British Columbia’s Asian Studies Department.

“I did not expect the Chinese regime would act in such a fierce, violent way,” she told Global News.

Read more in an [article from Global News](#).

Why a Blockade of Taiwan Would be Disastrous for China

China’s live-fire drills surrounding Taiwan over the weekend simulated an economic blockade, with Chinese forces positioned to halt access to the island nation’s main ports.

Dozens of ships heading to or from North Asia were forced to shift their routes or slow down to keep clear of the danger zones in both the Taiwan Strait and on the island’s eastern seaboard. An average of 240 ships a day normally pass through the area.

However, the demonstration of China's military prowess, showing how easily it could seal both Taiwan's maritime and air access to the rest of the world, served to underline China's own economic vulnerability.

If a real Chinese blockade were challenged by the United States and the Taiwan Strait were designated a war zone, trade finance and insurance would evaporate for all shipping in the area.

Any real-life disruption of the sea lanes to the east and west of Taiwan would have a crippling effect on China's own economy, since its major ports of Shanghai, Dalian, Tianjin and others are dependent on passage through waters near Taiwan.

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).

Sustainability

India to Stop Carbon Credit Exports Until Climate Goals Are Met

India will ban firms exporting carbon credits until the nation meets its climate goals, power and renewable energy minister Raj Kumar Singh told lawmakers debating changes to the country's energy conservation law on Monday.

"Carbon credits are not going to be exported. No question," Singh said, without giving details of timelines for when the curb would be effective or for the nation's carbon market to start. "These credits will have to be generated by domestic companies, bought by domestic companies."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is seeking changes to the energy conservation law to create a domestic carbon market and push through energy transition goals that will help limit climate change. The new law will prepare Indian companies for the looming carbon taxes in export markets and help transform India – a large energy importer – into a net exporter of energy in the coming years by utilizing its clean-energy potential.

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).