

Request for Cooperation to Eliminate Long-term Storage of Containers at Tokyo Port's Container Terminals

Dear Sirs,

The Port of Tokyo has seen the continued growth of container cargo handling. At the same time, it faces challenges of traffic congestion and truck drivers' lengthy waiting times in front of the gates of some of its container terminals.

Furthermore, since many venues of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 are scheduled to open in the waterfront of Tokyo next year, heavy traffic congestion is seriously anticipated due to the convergence of many Games-related cars and port-related trucks, etc.

Under these circumstances, we foresee that the volume of containers to be stored in the Port's container terminals will increase during and around the Games period and that work efficiency will decrease there. We are concerned about further traffic congestion in front of the container terminals' gates and its adverse effects upon logistics functions due to accumulated cargoes.

Therefore, we deem it significant to make the Port's container yards free from boxes in storage over an extended period time prior to the kick-off of the Games Tokyo 2020 and thus make work efficiency there secured. Even today, some 10 percent of loaded containers are stored in the yards for more than two weeks. It is indispensable to have all such cargoes carried out from the yards for keeping the volume of in-yard cargoes at a proper level and improving cargo-handling efficiency.

Based on this background, we request for your special consideration and cooperation with regard to the steps below. We believe these initiatives will bring effect only when all customers and users of the Port's container terminals implement them swiftly and surely.

For both the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 and the sustainment of logistics functions in the Tokyo Metropolitan area, the national government and all parties related to the Port of Tokyo will work as a team. We again request your understanding and cooperation.

1. On and after December 1st, 2019, we request that, with no legal binding but on a voluntary basis, ocean carriers encourage early delivery of imported full loaded containers without extension of demurrage free time.
2. At the same time, we request that, with no legal binding but on a voluntary basis, ocean carriers apply demurrage charge as per individual carriers' tariff with no discount.

Yours sincerely,

October 23, 2019

Mr. Masayuki Takada,
Director-General
Ports and Harbours Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,
Transport and Tourism
and
Ms. Hiromi Furuya,
Director-General
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