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Date: 26th February 2019

Subject: BREXIT and BCT requirements

Dear Customer,

The pending withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU) on the 29th March will bring some changes in the way Belfast Container Terminal (BCT) deal with cargoes to/from the VT3 terminal in Belfast.

A no deal hard Brexit between Europe and the UK may result in cargoes being deemed third country status for shipments between Northern Ireland and the EU bringing with it the requirement for customs regulatory control documents.

We are already handling a significant portion of cargoes with third country status at the VT3 terminal and a hard Brexit will increase the volume of such cargoes.

The following items require your attention to ensure a continued smooth flow of cargo moving through the VT3 terminal.

Connection to Community Network Services (CNS)

Currently

- BCT uses a manual release process to verify if import containers are customs cleared
- BCT is exporting containers based on load lists from the Shipping Lines

New processes

- To improve this manual process for releasing containers BCT is developing an on-line connection via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) with the portal Community Network Services (CNS) system, <https://www.cnsonline.net/web/>. The intention is to have this completed in advance of 29th March.
- The status of containers in the CNS system will be automatically updated in the BCT Terminal Operating System (TOS). This will eliminate the need to present import clearances at the BCT check-in desk and containers will only be released based on this automated transfer of information from the CNS system.

COPRAR Discharge and Loading files

- The Shipping Lines operating over VT3 terminal will need to ensure that all COPRAR load and discharge files contain the customs status of containers to be discharged and loaded.
- *Shipping Lines are requested to contact Craig.Meldrum@BCTerminal.com to ensure the customs status is contained in the COPRAR load and discharge files.*

- The Shipping Lines will continue to send their CUSCAR messages to the CNS system as is currently the case. The only difference will be the increase in the number of containers with third country status.

COPARN (container pre-announcement messages)

- A large portion of containers arriving at VT3 for export are not pre-announced via a COPARN EDI message prior to arrival at the terminal.
- To check in containers at the VT3 terminal **from the 25th March** it will be compulsory that the container will need to be pre-announced via a COPARN pre-announcement message, this message should contain the customs status of the container to be checked in.
- This will allow the BCT TOS check when the container arrives on the terminal the customs status of the unit in the CNS system.
- *Shipping Lines are requested to contact Craig.Meldrum@BCTerminal.com to ensure the COPARN messages are in place for all export containers to be checked in to the VT3 terminal.* The COPARN messages can be received from the Ship Operator or from the Deep Sea Lines.

Dwell Time

- As advised in our circular in October the upgrade works on the terminal in conjunction with Belfast Harbour Commissioners have commenced and have resulted in some restrictions on capacity. The above technical solutions, when in place, will assist in reducing delays by eliminating some of the manual processes currently in place on VT3 terminal.
Over the coming weeks we will be monitoring container dwell times on the terminal to ensure the terminal is not used to facilitate the building of contingency stocks. If we note a deterioration in the dwell time that may impact on the overall performance of the terminal further action may be required.

We believe with the co-operation of our customers we can put the appropriate technical solutions in place to ensure the efficient operations of the terminal. We have been pushing some of these technical solutions for some time now and BCT can facilitate same. We rely on your co-operation to attend to above items if your organisation has not already done so.

We remain committed to serving our customers requirements and will make every effort to minimise the level of disruption in the event of a hard Brexit.

Yours Sincerely,



Declan Freeman
Managing Director
I.C.G. Container and Terminal Division