



Update: Current market situation sea freight import from Far East

Dear business partners,

The **shortage of available shipping space** from the Far East to Europe has further **intensified**. The situation remains extremely tense and strong demand exceeds insufficient capacity.

Empty equipment is not available to the extent required. The consequences are **waiting times**, dramatically **rising sea freight rates** and the **introduction of further surcharges** by the shipping companies. The situation is not expected to ease before Chinese New Year 2021.

As a consequence, we are observing a **shift in the flow of goods to rail or truck** with an increasing tendency. There is also still a **high demand for air freight shipments** from Asia to Europe.

We therefore recommend:

- Booking of FCL shipments at least **4 - 6 weeks in advance**.
- Smaller volumes can be also arranged as **LCL shipment**.
(We offer weekly departures from all major ports in Asia.)
- Alternatively: Goods ex China can be loaded **by rail** (e. g. with *a. hartrodt Stars on Rails*) (advanced booking deadline: at least three weeks) or transported **by truck** via the "New Silk Road" (due to the high demand, full loads are favoured by hauliers). The advance booking period is **at least 4 weeks**.
- For urgent shipments, (partial) orders can be organized **by air freight** (e. g. via our *Golden Services* ex Greater China). We also offer partial- and full charter solutions.

Please contact your local a. hartrodt team in time to plan your shipments together. During these turbulent times we will support you and your cargo flow by using all available modes of transport.

We are available at any time to answer your questions.