



## Market information – Current Impacts

Dear customers,

We are currently observing an increased demand for suitable containers and shipping space for exports from Northern Europe. The increased demand collides with the current supply of suitable empty containers and a shortage of available shipping space.

We are in a market situation similar to that at the beginning of the "COVID-19 crisis". The reasons for this are complex, e. g. rise in demand for containers in the transpacific trade lanes, but also blank sailings implemented by shipping lines / alliances or the use of smaller vessels with reduced transport capacities.

With this information we would like to draw your attention to possible consequences at an early stage.

### The effects include:

- Limited container space and non-availability of timely container space
- Non-availability of suitable empty containers
- Rate increases / introduction of freight surcharges, in some cases with short notice, such as: peak season surcharges or container imbalance surcharges
- Strict enforcement of cancellation fees by carriers

We are in regular contact with our partners and work together on solutions to minimize delays and additional costs. We are confident that we will be able to fulfill any of your requirements accordingly in the coming weeks and months. In order to reduce the impact of the current situation for our customers, we recommend that you **place your transport requests and orders with us as soon as possible.**

Thank you for your understanding. We will inform you accordingly.

If you have any questions on this topic, do not hesitate to ask your a. hartrodt contact person.