

## CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

Chinese New Year 2024 will fall on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, starting the Year of the Dragon. As a public holiday, they will be observing seven days off work from February 9<sup>th</sup> to February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Let our expert professionals assist you with your shipping needs in advance of this holiday.

*FCL Fisker Customs & Logistics' Operations Team*



## IN REVIEW | NOVEMBER 2023

### MARINE

#### November 1 | “Record Dry Weather Forces Further Dramatic Cuts at the Panama Canal”

The dry weather in Panama shows no sign of letting up with the El Niño weather phenomenon wreaking havoc to schedulers working for the country's canal administration. The Panama Canal Administration warned yesterday that following the driest October on record, the volume of daily transits will be cut further. *Source: Splash 247.com*

**UPDATE November 10/23:** The number of ships waiting to transit the Panama Canal has leapt by 13% in the space of just 24 hours as drastic transit cuts kick in at the drought-hit waterway that accounts for 3% of all global maritime trade.

Following the driest year on record, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) has been cutting both daily transit volumes as well issuing draft restrictions across the canal, a waterway that requires 52m gallons of freshwater on average per vessel transit. Further significant transit cuts were announced last week that will over time see the number of voyages cut to just 18 a day by February, down from a maximum of 40 during normal times. *Source: Splash 247.com*

### **November 3 | “Garment Factories Set on Fire as Bangladesh Workers Demand ‘Living Wage’”**

Demonstrations by garment workers in Bangladesh have forced stoppages at more than 400 factories as they seek a wage hike to combat nearly double-digit inflation. The government on Thursday sent in the para-military Border Guard Bangladesh to disperse angry staff who had set fire to factories, and there are reports of two workers having died as the labour unrest spreads across industrial zones in Dhaka and adjoining areas. *Source: The Loadstar*

### **November 7 | “El Nino Wreaks Havoc on Global Shipping Patterns”**

Across every continent shipping is having to contend with the fallout from this year’s El Niño, a weather phenomenon that has helped cut drafts along major waterways, slashed agricultural production in key export markets, and could herald a stormy Pacific for vessels to contend with in the coming months. *Source: Splash 247.com*

### **November 7 | “Dockworkers Union Warns of Possible US East and Gulf Coast Strikes Next Year”**

The president of the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) which represents over 70,000 dockworkers on the east coast of the US and Canada, the Gulf Coast, the Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, and inland waterways, has warned of a possible strike next year if the union doesn’t reach a deal with employers. *Source: Splash 247.com*

### **November 13 | “PSA Halifax Enhances Handling Capabilities with New Ego STS Cranes”**

PSA Halifax unloaded two brand new mega Ship-to-Shore (STS) cranes for its Atlantic Hub terminal on the south end of the Canadian port.

These new ultra-large cranes will be added to the five existing super-post-panamax cranes at the terminal, thus allowing PSA Halifax to handle the largest container vessels deployed along the North American East Coast. *Source: Container News*

### **November 20 | “Update: Negotiations at Port of Montreal”**

The Maritime Employers Association (MEA) has provided an update on negotiations at the Port of Montreal toward a new labour agreement. The current agreement will expire on December 31.

The MEA filed an essential services request to the CIRB. CUPE Local 375 executives were granted until November 17 to respond. The MEA has 10 days to respond to the union’s submission, bringing the next steps in the request process to around November 27.

The CIRB has three options:

- Reject or accept the request
- Decision
- Hearings

The MEA, union and conciliators have met three times and have four meetings scheduled in the coming two weeks. The MEA said its objective remains a negotiated collective agreement. *Source: CIFFA*

## AIR

### November 20 | “U.S. Forwarders Brace for Kickback on Larger Shipment Screening Rules”

U.S. freight forwarders are bracing for shipper kickback on recently implemented security requirements for larger shipments.

At the end of October, shippers wishing to fly cargo that cannot be screened due to size or volume restrictions – such as aircraft engines, oil drums, or oil field drilling equipment – were required to be enrolled in the Transport Security Administration (TSA)'s authorized cargo security programs in order to move the shipments.

Brandon Fried, executive director of Air forwarders Association, explained that there are only three options since October 31: join one of the cargo programs, use sea freight instead of airfreight, or don't ship the larger cargo at all. Read more in an [article from Air Cargo News](#). *Source: CIFFA*

## ROAD / RAIL

### November 6 | “Construction at Vaughan Terminal”

CP is starting construction in the area of 6PK, 7PK and 8PK at the Vaughan terminal. All containers and chassis are being removed from that area in preparation for the work.

Drivers must not drop off in those three parking areas until construction is finished. *Source: CIFFA*

### November 13 | “First Direct Freight Rail Connection between Spain and France”

A new direct freight rail service connects the port of Barcelona in Spain with the French cities of Toulouse and Lyon.

The container service, created by APM Terminals Railways Spain, Synergy and Naviland Cargo, will provide four weekly connections between the port of Barcelona and these southern French cities four times a week, three to Toulouse and one to Lyon.

This latest connection is direct, marking the first-ever rail service from Spain to France that eliminates the need for transshipment or changing locomotives post the Perthus tunnel crossing. *Source: Container News*

### November 22 | “Explosion at Rainbow Bridge Canada/USA Border – Shipment Delays to be Expected”

We regret to share the news of an explosion at the border crossing in Niagara/Buffalo (Rainbow Bridge) today and unfortunately, carriers are unable to move their drivers across the border in either direction at this time. Delays are to be expected until the border re-opens. Landsdown CBSA is open, and drivers are being accepted that were due to cross in Niagara region. All efforts are being made to ensure our clients' shipments are top priority during these trying times. *Source: FCL Fisker Customs & Logistics*

**Update: November 24:** Canadian and U.S. border authorities say the Rainbow Bridge is back open as of Thursday evening, one day after a deadly car crash and explosion occurred on the American side of the border crossing.

## CUSTOMS

### November 8 | “CFIA – Automatic Licence Verification – Update for Members”

Further to the [November 2, 2023 message](#) we have been advised that CFIA inspectors will soon begin sending out information letters to importers with licensing errors via email.

In the letter, the inspector will ask the importer to review the CFIA’s guidance on [importing food with a valid Safe Food for Canadians licence](#) to make sure they declare a valid licence to avoid delays at the border.

However, due to the contact information provided in the SWI-IID, it is possible that this information letter reaches some of the importers’ customs brokers rather than the importer. To account for this, the information letter indicates: If you are a broker, feel free to share this guidance (CFIA’s guidance on importing food with a valid Safe Food for Canadians licence) with the importers you work with to ensure they provide you with a valid SFC licence number to declare.

As a reminder, if the client does not have a valid SFC licence on or after February 12, 2024, their transaction will be rejected, and their shipment will be denied entry into Canada. **Source: CSCB**

### November 17 | “CARM is Coming – Will You Be Ready on May 13, 2024?”

Better known as CARM, CBSA’s Assessment and Revenue Management project is a multi-year digital initiative intended to modernize how the government interacts with the trade community to assess and collect duties and taxes – over \$30 billion in annual revenue – for commercial goods imported into Canada.

Designed to replace legacy systems that date back to 1987, CBSA says CARM will deliver a globally leading customs experience that reduces the burden for legitimate trade, makes CBSA more efficient, and generates more revenue for the organization while contributing to securing Canada’s borders.

It’s a massive, generational shift for both industry and the government and it’s coming into force as the official system of record on May 13, 2024. Additionally, CARM is set to launch on that date as a big bang: legacy systems and processes come offline, and the new technology and regulatory framework comes online. For hundreds of thousands of importers and their partners, preparedness now is crucial to keep goods flowing compliantly in the very near future. **Source: CIFFA**

### November 22 | “Canada Gazette Publication Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations: Elephant Ivory & Rhinoceros Horn”

On behalf of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), I am pleased to inform you that the *Regulations Amending the Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations*, **which strengthen restrictions on the import and export of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn**, have been published in the [Canada Gazette, Part II \(CGII\)](#), to help address global sustained population declines in elephant and rhinoceros populations. **The new restrictions will come into force on January 8, 2024.**

## What has changed?

### For all items entering or leaving Canada made of or that contain **RAW** elephant tusk (ivory) and **RAW** rhinoceros horn:

Import and export continues to be prohibited without a permit.

- However, permits may now **only** be issued for items that will be used in a museum or zoo, for scientific research, or to support law enforcement activities.
- Hunting trophies of raw elephant tusk (ivory) or raw rhinoceros horn will no longer be permitted.

### For all items entering or leaving Canada that are or contain **WORKED** elephant tusk (ivory) and **WORKED** rhinoceros horn:

Permits are required for the import and export of **all items** of worked elephant tusk (ivory) or worked rhinoceros horn, including those that are personal effects or household effects. This includes, but is not limited to, items such as musical instruments, jewelry, game pieces, cutlery handles and sculptures.

- This also applies to items that are considered “pre-convention” (i.e. harvested prior to July 1975)

## What has NOT changed:

- Canadians may still own or possess legally obtained elephant tusk (ivory) and rhinoceros horn.
- **The measures for the import and export of ivory from other species, such as narwhal, walrus, sperm whale, hippopotamus, and warthog remain the same**. These amendments apply only to elephant tusk (ivory) and rhinoceros horn. They will also not impact the ability to own, sell or buy items made with ivory, tusks, horns, **or teeth** that are from species other than elephant or rhinoceros.
  - Items made of elephant ivory or rhinoceros horn are distinguishable from items **made from ivory from other species**. Environment and Climate Change Canada wildlife officers are trained to be able to determine the differences.
- The permit requirements for the **commercial** import and export of worked elephant tusk (ivory) and rhinoceros horn remain the same.

#### Learn more

- [Import and Export of Elephant tusk \(ivory\) and rhinoceros horn](#)
- Permit requirements for WORKED elephant tusk (ivory) and rhinoceros horn (document is attached)
- Poster: Are you planning to take elephant ivory or rhino horn in or out of Canada (document is attached)

NOTE: The new permit requirements will be in force as of January 8, 2024. Items coming into or out of Canada on and after this date will require the appropriate permits. If it can be shown that the imported or exported item was in transit **before November 22, 2023**, (CGI publication) ECCC will not apply the new requirements even if they arrive at the border after the coming into force date.

### **Contact Us:**

If you have any questions about the new requirements, you may reach out to us at: [ReglementsFaune-WildlifeRegulations@ec.gc.ca](mailto:ReglementsFaune-WildlifeRegulations@ec.gc.ca)

If you have questions about permits under the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna \(CITES\)](#), or want assistance in completing CITES permit application forms, you may contact us at:

CITES Canada - Management Authority, Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Telephone: 1-855-869-8670  
CITES Email ([cites@ec.gc.ca](mailto:cites@ec.gc.ca))

Sincerely,

Caroline Ladanowski  
Director, Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
351 St. Joseph Blvd, Gatineau, QC, K1A 0H3  
[ReglementsFaune-WildlifeRegulations@ec.gc.ca](mailto:ReglementsFaune-WildlifeRegulations@ec.gc.ca)

### **November 24 | “Register for CARM Client Portal Webinars”**

The CARM Engagement team is offering a new series of webinars starting in 2024. Please share with your clients and colleagues!

### **Registering Your Small / Medium Business on the CARM Client Portal**

The CBSA's Assessment and Revenue Management (CARM) team is excited to offer a new series of shorter webinars dedicated to helping small and medium businesses understand how CARM may affect them while guiding them through the steps required to register on the CARM Client Portal.

**Registration is required for these webinars.** Please register using the link that corresponds to your preferred date/time.

Webinar Registration – Registering Your Small / Medium Business on the CARM Client Portal			
English	Thursday, January 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	1:00pm - 2:00pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
	Tuesday, January 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	7:00pm – 8:00pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
	Thursday, January 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	10:00am - 11:00am EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
	Wednesday, January 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2024	1:00pm – 2:00pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
	Tuesday, February 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	1:00pm - 2:00pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
	Tuesday, March 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	1:00pm - 2:00pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
French	Thursday, January 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	3:00pm - 4:00pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
	Tuesday, January 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2024	6:00pm – 7:00pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
	Wednesday, January 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2024	10:00am – 11:00am EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
	Tuesday, March 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	3:00pm - 4:00pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>

### What You Need to Know with CARM Release 2 Webinar

These webinars will focus on the key changes to understand and prepare prior to Release 2 of the CARM Client Portal.

**Registration is required for these webinars.** Please register using the link that corresponds to your preferred date/time:

Webinar Registration – What You Need to Know with CARM Release 2 Webinar			
English	Thursday, January 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	1:00pm - 2:30pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
	Tuesday, February 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	1:00pm - 2:30pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
	Tuesday, March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	1:00pm - 2:30pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
French	Thursday, January 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	3:00pm - 4:30pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
	Tuesday, March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	3:00pm - 4:30pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>

## Open Mic Sessions

Open Mic Sessions are an open forum where TCPs can attend to ask questions in English or French on topics covered in any of the webinars.

Webinar Registration – Open Mic			
Bilingual	Thursday, January 25th, 2024	1:00pm – 2:00pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>
	Wednesday, March 27th, 2024	2:00pm – 3:00pm EST	<a href="#">Register</a>

A reminder that you can continue to access important CARM support materials on the [CARM Client Portal Onboarding Documentation](#).

Please send any questions and comments to: [CBSA.CARM\\_Engagement-Engagement\\_de\\_la\\_GCRA.ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:CBSA.CARM_Engagement-Engagement_de_la_GCRA.ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca).

### **November 24 | “Customs Tariff 2024”**

The Departmental Consolidation of the Customs Tariff 2024 is now published on the CBSA website:

<https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/trade-commerce/tariff-tarif/2024/menu-eng.html>

La Codification ministérielle du Tarif des douanes 2024 est maintenant publiés sur le site web de l'ASFC.

<https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/trade-commerce/tariff-tarif/2024/menu-fra.html> \*\*\*

Disclaimer: The CSCB cannot guarantee that links to external websites will work indefinitely. If you have an issue accessing a link, please email us at [cscb@cscb.ca](mailto:cscb@cscb.ca).

Canadian Society of Customs Brokers  
320, 55 Murray Street  
Ottawa, ON K1N 5M3  
[cscb.ca](http://cscb.ca)

Source: CBSA

## November 28 | “CARM Outreach Package”

Please find [attached messaging](#) from the Canada Border Services Agency - Assessment and Revenue Management (CARM) that you may send to your importer clients to communicate the need for them to register on the CARM Client Portal before May 2024.

We have also included a [toolkit](#) that you may send your clients, if helpful, that includes:

- A flow chart to help small and medium businesses understand if they need to register on the CARM Client Portal and;
- 5 Steps to Register your Business on the CBSA Assessment and Revenue Management CARM Client Portal.

Thank you for your continued collaboration.  
CARM Stakeholder Engagement  
Canada Border Services Agency / Government of Canada

Source: CSCB

## November 28 | “Canada Gazette, Part II, Volume 157, Number 24”

The following was published in the [Canada Gazette, Part II, Volume 157, Number 24](#) on November 22, 2023:

- [Special Economic Measures \(Russia\) Regulations — Regulations Amending the Special Economic Measures Act](#)
- [Special Economic Measures \(Russia\) Regulations — Regulations Amending the Special Economic Measures Act](#)
- [Special Economic Measures \(Russia\) Regulations — Regulations Amending the Special Economic Measures Act](#)
- [Special Economic Measures \(Russia\) Regulations — Regulations Amending the Special Economic Measures Act](#)
- [Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations — Regulations Amending the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act](#)

Source: CSCB

For inquiries about Customs News Articles contact:  
Christina Fisker, VP Customs & Compliance: [christina@fisker.ca](mailto:christina@fisker.ca)

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