

Safcor Panalpina's bulletin to our valued partners

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3 December 2010

**Transport Delays : Europe and South Africa
Customs Tariff Changes 2011, SARS Data Cleanup****Transport Delays: Europe and South Africa**

Safcor Panalpina clients are expected to be severely affected by delays resulting from poor weather in both Europe and South Africa:

Europe

Much of Northern Europe is paralysed by unseasonably cold weather and heavy snowfalls. Many flights have been delayed or cancelled, while airports have been forced to close from time to time. At the same time severe flooding has been reported from South-Eastern Europe with a similar impact on transport systems.

Much of Britain remains snowbound and the ports of Felixstowe, Southampton and Thamesport are closed. Although Tilbury remains open, operations there are reported to be very slow. Gale force winds, heavy rains and flooding have occurred over South-Western England.

More snow is forecast for the next few days and meteorologists have forecast that extremely cold conditions are likely to persist into the New Year.

Clients should brace themselves for extensive delays in the movement of cargoes to, from or through European airports and harbours.

South Africa

Unseasonably windy weather and severe thunderstorms are continuing to play havoc with operations at Durban, South Africa's largest and busiest port. Work at the port has been frequently suspended in recent days. Lengthy delays are again being experienced in the delivery and acceptance of containers, with waiting times of up to 16 hours occurring. At the time of this Communique, Pier 1 in Durban is windbound.

Although South Africa's other ports are reported to be working normally, delays at Durban will affect other ports as ships are rescheduled to accommodate the delays there.

Strong winds are expected to continue in South Africa's coastal areas for the next few days.

Customs Tariff Changes 2011, SARS Data Cleanup**Customs Tariff Changes 2011**

SARS has published details of final changes to the South African Customs Tariff for 2011. These changes become effective on 1st January 2011 and include further phasing down of duties on products originating in the European Union as well as the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in addition to further reductions in the rates of duty applicable to imported motor vehicles.

Clients who wish to benefit from these reductions are entitled to defer clearance and the payment of duties by storing arriving cargo "in bond" until the new rates come into effect.

SARS Data Cleanup

SARS' proposal to allow importers and exporters to access and verify their registration details online has been deferred. Clients will be advised once SARS continues with this initiative.

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