

# DIRECTIONS

News Update

August 2008

## **CHINESE SEAFREIGHT LOADINGS AND RATES**

A further update re shipping and rates ex China.

Loadings have been increasing gradually and are being pushed up to the point where the lines have now announced that:

1. A Peak Season Surcharge of USD250 per TEU will become effective Sept 1; and
2. A General Rate Increase of USD350 per TEU is expected to be implemented Sept 15.

If both of these go ahead the lines will receive a substantial increase but I am not sure that they will be able to achieve their goal. OOCL's notice re their GRI is attached for your reference.

We will keep you posted.

## **SEAFREIGHT FUEL SURCHARGE (BAF)**

You will have already noticed that the Bunker Adjustment Factor (BAF) has now risen to USD650 per TEU.

As oil prices have slipped a little we should expect to see a fall some time later this year. The rate never falls as fast as it rises however.

## **CHINESE HOLIDAYS**

Please note the Upcoming China National Holiday period starts on the 29 September this year, lasting for 7 days.

In the past there has been a shortage of space available so it might be a good idea to check with your factories to ensure production is on time and all of your bookings are in early.

We will advise the relevant cut-offs and varied booking requirements shortly.

## **AQIS FEES**

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) has recently increased their Quarantine Entry and Services Fees across the board.

We continue to not charge an additional service fee for any necessary AQIS entries.

## **HAND CARRIED SAMPLES**

Many of our clients' buyers and designers continue to personally bring back samples from their overseas buying trips.

Whilst individuals are allowed to bring in up to a value of AU\$900 of overseas purchased items for personal consumption, all commercial samples are subject to the payment of Duty and GST.

As a result, a formal Customs Entry must be lodged with the Australian Customs Service.

This can be done ahead of arrival, usually with us receiving receipt details from each buyer in advance, and the Customs Entry will be awaiting the buyer's arrival for immediate clearance.

Alternatively, Customs will issue each individual with a receipt for the hand carried goods, and once we receive the commodity and value details, will process an Entry and have the cleared goods delivered out.

Please make contact with your nominated Broker to discuss this further...

All the best,

Bruce and the Dean Team