

Update trucking situation USA – herewith CHICAGO area  
- FORCE MAJEURE -

Hamburg February 19<sup>th</sup> 2018

*Dear Customer -*

*You will be aware that in recent weeks truck supply across North America has become an enormous problem.*

*It has now reached a tipping point in some markets.  
Most particularly, in the Chicago metropolitan area.*

*Here, a number of factors have combined to severely stress our ability to offer a viable carrier haulage operation, specifically :*

- *Heavy gate congestion*
- *A chronic lack of truck power*
- *A near zero availability of chassis across the city*
- *Bunching of inbound trains ( from both the East and Pacific coasts )*
- *Increased container volumes, both import and export*
- *Heavy snowfall and loss of yard storage*
- *Punitive non-negotiable surcharges from all suppliers, including house truckers.*

*These critical developments have forced various Steamship lines to urgently review their policy and C/H operation at their key Midwest hub.*

*Given the severity of the current situation, and the dire forecasts, relative to the future availability of drivers, tractors and chassis, they have no option but to declare a “ force majeure “ situation.*

*Accordingly, with IMMEDIATE EFFECT, various Steamship lines now SUSPENDING ALL PRE AND POST RAMP CARRIER HAULAGE OPERATIONS in Chicago.*

*This is applicable for both EXPORTS, as well as IMPORTS.*

*TWS is doing the utmost to substitute “carriers door moves”, but this finally may result in additional costs for account of cargo.*