

National Shipper Advisory Committee to Federal Maritime Commission (FMC)

Sub-Committee: Data & Visibility

Opening: Reduce data complexity and opacity within the supply chain by requiring consistent data points, processes and practices between Ocean Carriers, and Marine Terminal Operators (MTOs).

Purpose: Consistency and alignment of data between Ocean Carriers, and MTOs, especially as pertains to milestones on the pick-up and return of containers both loaded and empty.

Part of the complexity is currently witnessed in the misalignment of Alliances and VSA members' data when calling a US port. Most times, a vessel calling the same port will have two, three or four different Early Return Dates, and Documentation and Physical Cutoff Dates, depending on the carrier that issues the booking confirmation. Alliances and VSAs members communicate different dates for the same vessel calling the same port. Moreover, these data points are different both upstream and downstream to the MTOs in the network.

This recommendation serves to expand on the previously submitted recommendations: Shipment Level Data Alignment, Container Level Data Alignment, Intermodal Level Data Alignment submitted on December 8, 2022, the ERD Recommendation discussed on August 10, 2022.

Recommendation: Require Ocean Carriers and their subcontracted parties, i.e., MTOs, rail carriers, chassis providers, container depots, etc. to publish consistent, aligned, and timely data on the following data elements:

Export Cargo:

- Empty pickup container yard location
- Empty pickup date
- Documentation Cutoff
- Physical Cutoff

- Loaded container location and earliest return date
- Loaded container ingate return

Import Cargo:

- Container pickup available date
- Container last free port demurrage date
- Container last free equipment detention date
- Empty container return yard location options