



China port operations update

Current conditions, shipment impacts
and recommended actions

SEPTEMBER 2026

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Shanghai and Ningbo remain under pressure

Recent typhoon disruptions have affected schedule reliability across key China gateways. Shanghai is experiencing higher congestion levels, while Ningbo-Zhoushan shows more stable performance.

Both gateways continue working through cargo backlogs, with vessel delays still affecting schedules.

SHANGHAI	NINGBO-ZHOUSHAN
Higher congestion levels and extended vessel waiting times.	More stable operations, although average vessel delays of 4–5 days continue.

Implications for shipments



Longer lead times

Additional transit and waiting time should be considered in production, inventory and delivery planning.



Lower schedule reliability

Schedule changes, cargo rollovers and port omissions may affect planned departures and arrivals.



Higher peak-season pressure

Growing volumes and existing backlogs may continue affecting capacity availability and rates.



Actions to manage operational uncertainty

Based on current conditions, our China team recommends early planning adjustments to help reduce exposure to capacity constraints and schedule disruptions.

Book earlier.

Peak-season volumes and existing backlogs may limit last-minute capacity and increase rollover risk.

Add 5–7 days of buffer.

Additional lead time can help absorb potential vessel delays or schedule changes in production and delivery planning.

Monitor equipment closely.

Early confirmation of empty-container availability and laden-container status can help avoid delays around key cut-offs.

Stay aligned with carrier updates.

Revised sailing schedules, terminal cut-offs and gate-in instructions may change with limited notice.

Keep alternative routings ready.

South China gateways can provide alternatives for time-sensitive cargo if conditions in Shanghai or Ningbo worsen.





Alternative routings can help maintain operational continuity

Shanghai and Ningbo are not the only gateways available for China exports. If congestion intensifies, our China team can assess gateways in South China as alternatives to help reduce exposure to vessel backlogs and schedule disruptions.

For selected shipments, the best alternative should be assessed based on destination, carrier availability, cut-off windows and total transit impact.

xpd global routing solutions for time-sensitive shipments

FAST VESSEL	xpd BRIDGE
 Expedited ocean for cargo moving from Asia to the U.S. West Coast, providing a faster transit and greater schedule reliability than standard ocean, at a lower cost than air freight. • 10–15 day transit time • 30–60% lower cost than air freight • Dedicated handling for faster cargo availability • Expedited inland connectivity with full shipment visibility	 A hybrid ocean-air solution for cargo moving into Mexico and Latin America, balancing speed, cost and capacity through strategic hubs in Asia and the U.S. • Up to 15 days faster than traditional ocean transit • Cargo handling and processing through major U.S. gateways • End-to-end shipment visibility and multimodal coordination through a single operation



Need to reassess a China export?

Our team at origin can help evaluate capacity, routing options and the most suitable solution as conditions change.

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with our local team

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