

CHECKLIST · LTC KNOWLEDGE BASE

Avoiding demurrage & detention

What demurrage and detention actually are, and how to stay ahead of the costs. A practical checklist for shippers and freight forwarders.

You pay demurrage when a full container sits too long at the terminal; detention when you hold the container itself too long outside the terminal. Both add up fast. The right preparation keeps those costs away.

BEFORE ARRIVAL

- ☐ Check the free time in your contract with the shipping line.
- ☐ Ask the shipping line for extra free time well in advance if a delay looks likely: arranging it upfront beats disputing it afterward.
- ☐ Have the customs documents complete and ready.
- ☐ Submit the VGM (verified gross mass) on time.
- ☐ Plan the trip as soon as the container is discharged, not on the last free day.

AT THE TERMINAL

- ☐ Book the pickup slot as early as possible.
- ☐ Check that the container has been released: shipping line (freight invoice paid), customs and any exemption.
- ☐ Check the terminal's opening hours and closures around your last free day: weekends, holidays and congestion eat into your margin faster than you think.
- ☐ Keep an active eye on the last free day.

AFTER THE TRIP

- ☐ Unload quickly and return the empty container to the depot the shipping line designates: the wrong depot costs just as much in detention.
- ☐ Report any damage or discrepancy immediately.
- ☐ Keep the CMR and the terminal documents.

TIP Not sure about the free time on your lane? Call the planning desk: +31 10 283 23 10.

LTC Logistics BV

Albert Plesmanweg 105 B, 3088 GC Rotterdam
+31 10 283 23 10 · info@ltclogistics.nl
CoC 53035933 · VAT NL850717760B01

ltclogistics.nl

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From the planners at LTC Logistics