



Conditions Impacting a Global Relocation

The Suddath team is working hard to minimize disruptions related to the global supply chain crisis which is impacting nearly every aspect of consumer purchasing today. The household goods moving industry is experiencing frequent delays and a range of disruptions in international shipping due to congestion at global ports and terminals.

The current imbalance for shipping containers is a primary cause of transit delay for international relocations. Assignees with a larger amount of household goods utilize these containers for ocean transport. Since 2021, when markets began to reopen, the surge in shipping of consumer goods has caused unprecedented stress on the global supply chain. This has created significant backlogs at international shipping ports around the world.

Beyond sea transportation, the relocation industry is experiencing delays with air freight shipments. The freight prioritization schedules of airlines, extended backlogs and overall capacity limitations by freight carriers are causing interruptions not previously seen for this transport mode.

Factors contributing to the crisis include:

- Global imbalance of containers and equipment
- Flight delays due to aircraft capacity and shipment prioritization
- Truck driver and labor shortages
- Freight carriers directing equipment to most profitable shipping lanes
- COVID-19 restrictions, lockdowns and quarantines (particularly Asia)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should I do to prepare for my move?

- Book your move with your moving company as early as possible.
- Be prepared for extended transit times.
- Book your move dates before setting home closing dates or booking flights.
- Beware of any mover that claims they have no issues securing containers.
- Request all potential charges up front to avoid surprises, such as shuttle, warehouse handling (WHH) and storage-in-transit (SIT) costs.

Why are shipping dates not being advised up front?

When booking freight, shipping carriers provide Suddath an estimated time of departure; however, they are frequently postponing departure dates without explanation. Information on final departures and arrivals will be communicated immediately, upon confirmation.

How much time for delays should we factor into our plans?

Currently, delays are anywhere from two to eight weeks. Delay length is dependent on the shipment's destination, proximity to the port/airport and availability of labor and equipment such as containers, chassis, trucks and vessel/aircraft space.

Why is temporary storage of the household goods needed?

Temporary storage is often needed as a result of the container shortage and short-notice cancellations by shipping lines. Until containers and vessel capacity are available, household goods need to be safely stored in a warehouse. This is typically quoted on move estimates as:

- SHUTTLE - Moving goods back to the warehouse instead of loading the container at residence
- WHH (Warehouse Handling) - Labor cost in and out of storage to receive the goods, load them into storage vaults and stack until a container is available
- SIT (Storage-in-transit) - Monthly storage charge for safely holding the goods in the warehouse until loading

Learn more about the crisis at the following:

- International Association of Movers (IAM): [Impacts of the Supply Chain Crisis on Global Mobility](#)
- FIDI Global Alliance: [International Federation of International Movers Statement](#)

We're here to guide you through this process and these unprecedented times. Please contact your Suddath customer service counselor with questions regarding your relocation.

