

FCBF Freight Forwarding Committee

AGENDA | October 20, 2026 | 11:00 AM

Chair: Nicholas Roe | Co-Chair: Stanley Rigaud

1. Panama Canal Bulker Transits Fall as Competition for Slots Increases

SOURCE: WorldCargoNews.com - September 18, 2026

- Bulker transits through the Panama Canal have fallen 22% year over year since the start of July as dry bulk vessels compete with tankers and other sectors for limited transit slots.
- Lower water levels tied to El Niño have led the Canal to tighten capacity. Daily transits fell from 36 to 34 on September 4 and to 32 on September 15, with an October plan averaging 29.5 daily transits.
- US dry bulk trade is especially exposed: the US is the origin or destination for 54% of dry bulk cargo moving through the Canal, including grains, steel, fertilizers, coal, & salt.
- Bulk carriers are increasingly rerouting around the Cape of Good Hope or Cape Horn, adding sailing distance and ton-mile demand; the upcoming US corn and soybean export season could intensify the pressure.

Discussion Question: As Canal capacity tightens again, should forwarders begin building alternative routing and longer lead times into customer planning before peak agricultural exports increase slot competition?

2. US Shippers Expand Private Fleets as Trucking Capacity Tightens

SOURCE: Journal of Commerce - September 22, 2026

- About 71% of shippers surveyed by the National Private Truck Council plan to expand their private fleets to hedge against tightening for-hire truck capacity and higher fuel costs.
- Private fleets increased shipment volume 9.1% last year, and 76% of respondents said they use private-fleet capacity as leverage in rate negotiations with for-hire carriers.
- Shippers generally do not expect private fleets to replace outside carriers; instead, they are increasingly treating private capacity as another transportation mode that provides greater control over service, capacity and cost.
- Rising diesel prices are adding pressure and making fuel efficiency, routing and purchasing strategies more important.

Key takeaway for forwarders: Large shippers are seeking more direct control over trucking capacity. Forwarders and brokers may face stronger competition for dependable capacity and greater pressure to demonstrate service value beyond simply finding a truck.

Discussion Question: If more large shippers move freight into private fleets, how could that affect available for-hire capacity, pricing and the role of freight forwarders and brokers?

3. Intermodal Growth Puts Pressure on Drayage Driver Capacity

SOURCE: Journal of Commerce - October 1, 2026

- North American domestic intermodal container volumes rose 11.9% year over year from June through August, but rebuilding the drayage driver base has not kept pace with demand.
- J.B. Hunt is raising driver pay, offering bonuses, training less-experienced drivers and using outsourced carriers to preserve first- and final-mile capacity in constrained markets.
- Industry estimates indicate roughly 16,000 fewer drivers are available to haul domestic intermodal containers than in 2022, while high equipment and financing costs make it difficult for former owner-operators to return.
- Customer service, on-time pickup and on-time delivery were far more strongly associated with shipper loyalty than price, underscoring how critical drayage execution is to intermodal service.
- Detention and inefficient receiver appointments further reduce productive driver hours, meaning the constraint is not only the number of drivers but how effectively available driver time is used.

Discussion Question: Are drayage shortages becoming a larger threat to intermodal growth than rail capacity itself, and what can forwarders do to protect service when driver capacity is tight?

4. CMA CGM Completes \$1.4 Billion FedEx Supply Chain Acquisition

SOURCE: FreightWaves - October 1, 2026

- CMA CGM completed its \$1.4 billion acquisition of FedEx Supply Chain, which will be integrated into its CEVA Logistics subsidiary.
- The transaction triples CEVA's North American warehouse footprint, adding about 34 million square feet, 130 customers and bringing the combined operation to roughly 150 warehouses; CEVA's North American presence expands to more than 240 locations.
- The acquisition strengthens CMA CGM's strategy of offering end-to-end logistics across ocean transportation, terminals, air cargo, customs clearance, warehousing and final-mile delivery.
- CMA CGM will also become a preferred ocean carrier for FedEx over several years, while the companies plan air-cargo collaboration on strategic lanes including Asia-Europe.

Key takeaway for forwarders: Ocean carriers continue expanding beyond port-to-port transportation into warehousing, air cargo, customs and final-mile logistics, increasing direct competition with traditional forwarders and 3PLs.

Discussion Question: As major ocean carriers build true end-to-end logistics networks, how should independent freight forwarders differentiate themselves and protect customer relationships?

5. Hapag-Lloyd / ZIM Deal Hits New Israeli Review Hurdle

SOURCE: Seatrade Maritime News - October 1, 2026

- Israel's Government Companies Authority stopped processing a key application tied to Hapag-Lloyd's proposed acquisition of ZIM because a revised post-closing proposal was not submitted by the required deadline.
- The review involves Israel's special or "golden" share in ZIM and a proposal to transfer related requirements to a new ZIM Israel controlled by Israeli private-equity firm FIMI.

- Hapag-Lloyd has been revising the transaction to address Israeli national-security and maritime-independence concerns, including maintaining an Asia service for ZIM Israel and limiting share acquisitions without government approval.
- Hapag-Lloyd has told ZIM it intends to submit a revised proposal and again seek approval from the Government Companies Authority and the state of Israel.
- Opposition remains tied to strategic logistics concerns, foreign sovereign-wealth-fund ownership interests in Hapag-Lloyd and whether a smaller ZIM Israel could remain sufficiently independent.

Key takeaway for forwarders: The proposed acquisition remains active, but government security requirements are materially affecting its structure and timing. The case continues to show how national-security considerations can influence carrier consolidation.

6. Transportation Prices Surge as Capacity Tightens Further

SOURCE: FreightWaves - October 6, 2026

- The Logistics Managers' Index (LMI) showed transportation prices up 2.7 points from August and remaining at highly inflationary levels.
- Transportation capacity fell for the 10th consecutive month of contraction and signaling a significantly tighter freight market.
- Record diesel fuel costs and heightened regulatory enforcement are contributing to the capacity squeeze.
- Logistics managers expect the market to remain tight over the next 12 months.
- Warehousing is tightening as well: warehouse capacity fell as inventories increased ahead of the holiday period, adding pressure across the broader logistics network.

Key takeaway for forwarders: The trucking market is becoming increasingly carrier-favorable as available capacity contracts and transportation costs rise. Forwarders should prepare customers for higher inland costs and secure reliable capacity earlier rather than relying on last-minute availability.

Discussion Question: Are we entering a sustained trucking-rate upcycle, and should forwarders begin adjusting customer expectations and carrier strategies now?

Upcoming FCBF Events



Customs Brokers Under Scrutiny: CTPAT, Foreign IORs & CBP's New Due Diligence Expectations for All Brokers

October 21, 2026 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | Webinar

FCBF General Membership Meeting at Port Everglades

November 4, 2026 | 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Port Everglades - Terminal 25

Customs Valuation Basics: Strategies for Managing Liability

November 5, 2026 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | Webinar

Education Committee Meeting

November 10, 2026 | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM | Teams Meeting

Importing 201: Building a Compliance Program That Holds Up

December 9, 2026 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | World Trade Center Miami