

# Demurrage and Detention Charges: Bad When They're Not Good

OCTOBER 11, 2021

*This article was originally published in TradeWinds. Any opinions in this article are not those of Winston & Strawn or its clients. The opinions in this article are the authors' opinions only.*

Not all demurrage and detention charges are bad: some do incentivise efficient cargo movement and freight fluidity, but U.S. shippers are being driven hopping mad by the other kind—those that serve no purpose, that have mushroomed in the darkness of opaque billing practices and impossible burdens of proof.

Under current rules, shippers are guilty until proven innocent. They owe the demurrage charges unless they can show the charges did not incentivise cargo movement or promote freight fluidity.

Much of the time, cargo owners have no way of knowing just how and when the delays occur, but because of the carriers' lien, they are often left with no way out but to pay the ransom to get their cargo back.

Read the full article [here](#).

1 Min Read

## Related Locations

Washington, DC

## Related Topics

Admiralty & Maritime Law

Shipping

## Related Capabilities

Maritime & Admiralty

## Related Regions

North America

## Related Professionals

---



Bryant Gardner