

Demurrage & detention checklist



Stop paying for days a container sits waiting. Tick through this for every import shipment.

Demurrage — a **full** container stays in the terminal beyond free time.

Detention — you keep the carrier's container **outside** the terminal beyond free time, until the empty is back.

Before the shipment leaves

- ☐ Free time confirmed for this carrier, port and container type (demurrage, detention, or combined).
- ☐ Free time written next to the booking; reefers checked separately.
- ☐ Document type agreed: original B/L, telex release, sea waybill or eBL.
- ☐ If originals are needed: supplier will courier them as soon as they are issued.
- ☐ Customs broker has the commercial invoice, packing list and product codes.

While it is on the water

- ☐ Tracking the container (live ETA), not just the schedule from booking.
- ☐ Courier tracking number for the documents received, and the parcel tracked.
- ☐ Documents will arrive **before** the vessel. If not: telex release, reroute, or warn the consignee.
- ☐ Rollover or schedule change checked, and new arrival date shared.
- ☐ Customs pre-clearance started before berthing.

On arrival

- ☐ Haulage booked for the real arrival date, with a back-up before holidays.
- ☐ Warehouse slot confirmed for delivery.
- ☐ Freight and local charges paid so release is not held.
- ☐ Delivery order issued and container picked up inside free time.

After delivery

- ☐ Container unloaded promptly.
- ☐ Empty returned to the right depot before detention starts.
- ☐ Invoice checked against free time and actual dates.
- ☐ Lessons noted: did this lane need more free time in the contract?

Rough guide — demurrage and detention often run about \$50–300 per container per day. Your carrier's tariff is the real figure.

Free-time log

Container no.	Vessel ETA	Free days	Last free day	Pickup booked	Empty back by

Let the dates come to you. ShipTastic follows each container on the real vessel and alerts you to delays and demurrage risk. Try the live demo at shiptastictracking.com