

VBS to CBS transition and Data gathering

As discussed with our business partners and the haulage community, from Monday 15th July the VBS to CBS transition and data gathering period will begin. Please be assured that no Late Notification Period or additional peak period charges will apply until the data collected has been reviewed and the haulage community are consulted.

Below are the main points of the transition from VBS to CBS that will go live from Monday 15th July, together with a brief explanation of what this will mean to the haulage community alongside some commonly asked questions.

The existing VBS website will remain the same, the only difference being is that a pop-up will display once the booking is made within the Late Notification Period and within the additional peak-period timeframe. The website will then be updated at the end of the data gathering period when the transitional changes have been agreed.

CBS is intended as an enhancement to improve the haulier experience when exchanging containers at the Port of Felixstowe. It is recognised that the decision to NOT apply charges from day-one may not encourage the change of collective behaviour desired to present more accurate collection container details, but hauliers are encouraged - where possible - to work within the new parameters, thereby enabling a more accurate data collection period and effective system in the future.

The late notification period (LNP) will change from one hour to twelve hours.

- During the LNP any additions, amendments or removal of collection container details will generate a late notification charge. This includes changes to the appointment time.
- These charges are cumulative. Multiple changes will result in multiple charges.
- If the booking is returned to the exchange within the late notification period, the previous holder of the booking will remain liable for any amendments prior to the exchange and the 'no show' charge should the booking not subsequently be used.
- The LNP charge will be priced at £35.69 per instance.
- Changes to export details (Empty/Laden) will not initially be liable for the LNP charge.

Exchange Free time will change from one hour to twelve hours.

- This will bring the Exchange Free time in line with the late notification period.

Peak Period charges.

- A further peak period charge will be applied to bookings between 0400 and 0700 Hours. This is in addition to the existing 1200 - 1900 Hours peak period. This further peak period will allow us to better manage peak flows and spread demand.
- All peak period bookings that are used or become 'No Shows' will incur the peak period charge of £2.38 per booking.

Over-night tolerances.

- The relaxed overnight arrival tolerance currently offered will be removed and a standard late tolerance of one hour will be applied to all bookings.

Frequently asked questions

How will this affect 'load and go' bookings?

The load and go function will continue to be available, but should the container land within the LNP period the charge will apply.

What will happen when a Flexible Arrival Period (FAP) is applied?

The LNP charge will not be applied where the booked hour is within a FAP.

How will I know if charges could be applicable?

VBS change of details messages and emails advising of booking detail changes will continue to be sent to the nominated VBS email address.

How can I monitor accrued charges.

We will review the data and update you shortly on how these charges can be viewed.

How will this affect pre allocated hauliers?

For the time being all hauliers that qualify will continue to receive their current number of pre allocated bookings in advance of the main release. All bookings, including pre allocated, are subject to the LNP and peak period charges.

Will there be any assistance to shunters?

There is still some discussion in this area but there is currently no mechanism in place to assist hauliers that consider themselves to be shunters.