

CHARTER OF GOOD SHIPPING PRACTICES

A FRAMEWORK FOR EFFICIENT AND FAIR FRESH PRODUCE LOGISTICS

Preamble

The Charter of Good Shipping Practices for efficient and fair fresh produce logistics (“the Charter”) is intended to serve as a shared foundational framework for stakeholders in maritime supply chains for fresh produce. It aims to foster mutual understanding and collaboration, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing efficiency across the supply chain. Recognizing shipping’s vital role in global food systems, the Charter underscores the importance of transparent, efficient, and responsible practices to build trust and advance sustainability among trading partners.

Grounded in ethical conduct and open communication, the Charter encourages fair and transparent business practices, healthy competition, and operational excellence—acknowledging fair and reasonable returns for all stakeholders. Its five principles offer both aspirational guidance and practical tools for aligning daily operations with best practices.

Upholding the central principles of collaboration, transparency, and fairness, this foundational set of values will anchor and transform global supply chains, increasing efficiency, reducing waste, and ensuring fair rewards for everyone.

By adhering to the Charter, stakeholders contribute to higher standards of integrity, responsibility, and collaboration within the shipping supply chain. The Charter is a living document. Though non-legally binding, it represents a collective effort to enhance efficiency and sustainability in fresh produce shipping by fostering a culture of integrity and trust amongst stakeholders.

Scope

The Charter is developed and put forward by the Global Coalition of Fresh Produce, together with all stakeholders across the fresh produce shipping supply chain. This includes, but is not limited to, exporters, importers, carriers, brokers, port and terminal operators, tech suppliers, and industry associations.

The Charter is built on five core principles:

Collaboration & communication

2

Competition & efficiency

4

Resilience & risk preparedness

1

Fair & transparent business terms

3

Cargo integrity & product quality

5

PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS

Collaboration & communication

Collaborative engagement and transparent communication are critical to the success of the international fresh produce supply chain. When information is withheld or fragmented, inefficiencies multiply, resulting in food waste, environmental harm, and reduced profitability.

1

Promote transparency, timely data sharing, and system interoperability to reduce inefficiencies and boost sustainability.

Fair & transparent business terms

In today's complex maritime logistics landscape, opaque pricing, unexpected surcharges, and vague contract terms erode trust, proficiency, and profitability across the supply chain.

2

Apply transparency and clarity, equitable costs, and reasonable terms to avoid disputes.

Competition & efficiency

Restricted access to shipping services, limited service options, and anti-competitive practices hinder exporters' ability to secure timely and cost-effective transport.

3

Support a reliable, cost-effective shipping environment free from discrimination

Cargo integrity & product quality

Perishable goods demand precise handling, temperature control, and timely delivery to minimize waste and meet consumer expectations. Correct handling and clear prioritization can improve delivery efficiency and product quality.

4

Maintain optimal handling to preserve freshness, safety, and value.

Resilience & risk preparedness

Global supply chains are increasingly exposed to extreme weather, port congestion, labor unrest, geopolitical tensions, and shifting regulatory landscapes, triggering volatility in supply and demand. Instability can ripple across regions, affecting trade relationships and weakening food system resilience.

5

Enhance supply chain stability through proactive planning and coordinated response.