



South Africa Demurrage and Detention Terms

Demurrage Definition

This fee is applicable when the customer holds carrier equipment in the terminal / overstay facility for longer than the agreed amount of free time. It can be incurred for both exports (early drop-off) and imports (late pick-up).

Export Demurrage days are counted from gate-in (full) to container loading date minus the free days.

Import Demurrage days are counted from container discharge to gate-out delivery (full) minus the free days.

Demurrage is applicable to all containers that remain at a terminal or overstay depot location longer than the agreed free time.

Detention Definition

Detention charges occur when the consignee holds onto the carrier's container beyond the detention free time that is allotted as prescribed by the line.

Export Detention days are counted from pick-up empty to gate-in full minus the free days.

Import Detention days are counted from discharge full to gate-in empty minus the free days.

Detention fees are applicable to all containers that remain in the customer's possession longer than the agreed free time as prescribed below by the shipping line.

Import Demurrage

Standard demurrage free-time is 3 days for Durban and 4 days for Cape Town and Port Elizabeth starting from container discharge (Discharge next day for Durban P1 & P2 only)

Reefer Peak: During the peak reefer season (Port Elizabeth and Durban 1st May – 31st October, Cape Town 15th November – 31st March) free days will be reduced to 2 free days *Applicable to reefer shipments only.

Demurrage Freetime Extensions: Any extensions to Terminal freetime that is published by TPT will be captured on a container level for terminals DCT, Pier 1 and CTCT and are applicable to containers dwelling inside the terminal only. For NCT and PECT the last free date will be set and extended on a vessel level.

Import Demurrage						
Durban (Pier 1 and Pier 2 and Point)						
	20' Dry per day	40' Dry per day	20' Reef per day	40' Reef per day	20' Special per day	40' Special per day
Freetime	3 days	3 days	3 days	3 days	3 days	3 days
	20' Dry per day	40' Dry per day	20' Reef per day	40' Reef per day	20' Special per day	40' Special per day
Day 4	ZAR 2698	ZAR 5396	ZAR 4096	ZAR 6148	ZAR 8100	ZAR 8100
Day 5	ZAR 4391	ZAR 8772	ZAR 4096	ZAR 6148	ZAR 13158	ZAR 13158
Day 6	ZAR 4391	ZAR 8772	ZAR 8204	ZAR 12305	ZAR 13158	ZAR 13158
Cape Town (CTCT and MPT), Port Elizabeth (NCT and PECT) and Johannesburg (JNB)						
	20' Dry per day	40' Dry per day	20' Reef per day	40' Reef per day	20' Special per day	40' Special per day
Freetime	4 days	4 days	4 days	4 days	4 days	4 days
	20' Dry per day	40' Dry per day	20' Reef per day	40' Reef per day	20' Special per day	40' Special per day
Day 5	ZAR 272	ZAR 541	ZAR 4096	ZAR 6148	ZAR 2726	ZAR 2726
Day 6	ZAR 272	ZAR 541	ZAR 4096	ZAR 6148	ZAR 2726	ZAR 2726
Day 7 +	ZAR 272	ZAR 541	ZAR 4096	ZAR 6148	ZAR 5994	ZAR 5994
Day 7 + MPT	ZAR 1771	ZAR 3533	ZAR 4096	ZAR 6148	ZAR 5994	ZAR 5994

Reefer Peak

Durban Container Terminals, Port Elizabeth and Ngqura: 1 May – 31 October. Cape Town Container Terminals: 15 November – 31 March

	Durban (Pier 1 & Pier 2)		Cape Town (CTCT / MPT) and Port Elizabeth (NCT & PECT)	
	20' Reef per day	40' Reef per day	20' Reef per day	40' Reef per day
Freetime	2 days	2 days	2 days	2 days
	20' Reef per day	40' Reef per day	20' Reef per day	40' Reef per day
Day 3	ZAR 4096	ZAR 6148	ZAR 4096	ZAR 6148
Day 4	ZAR 4096	ZAR 6148	ZAR 4096	ZAR 6148
Day 5	ZAR 8204	ZAR 12305	ZAR 4096	ZAR 6148

Demurrage - Hazardous

IMDG Code	IMDG 1; 2.1; 2.3; 4.1; 4.2' 5.1; 6.2; 7	IMDG 3, 4,5, 6 & 8	IMDG 9
Freetime	0 days	2 days	3 days

Import IMO Demurrage Rates

Equipment Type	20ft IMO	40ft IMO	45ft IMO
After Freetime	ZAR 4193	ZAR 8772	ZAR 13158

Import Detention

Maersk Import Detention	DRY	REEF	SPECIAL / IMO	NOR	Start Trigger
CT/ PLZ / NCT / DBN / JNB to Coastal / Inland Depot	5 days	4 days	5 days	14 days	
CT/ PLZ / NCT / DBN / JNB to Lesotho, Botswana &	14 days	10 days	10 days	14 days	Discharge
CT/ PLZ / NCT / DBN / JNB to Zambia, Zimbabwe & Malawi	18 days	18 days	18 days	18 days	
CT / PLZ / NCT / DBN / JNB Rail to Lesotho, Botswana & Swaziland	7 days	7 days	7 days	7 days	Off Rail

Detention Rates Valid from 1 April 2026

Per day rate after FT Expiry	20' Dry & NOR	40' Dry & NOR	20' Reef	40' Reef	20' Special / IMO	40' Special / IMO
Day 1 to 5	USD 88	USD 164	USD 147	USD 281	USD 141	USD 281
Day 6 to 10	USD 112	USD 211	USD 234	USD 469	USD 234	USD 469
Day 11 onwards	USD 147	USD 293	USD 293	USD 586	USD 293	USD 586

Overstay

Overstay Definition: When uncleared / cleared containers are moved by the line from the terminal to a depot facility that is treated as an extended port facility. Removing boxes from the terminal within the demurrage free time is a terminal requirement that if not executed can result in vessel operations being negatively impacted and lead to terminal congestion.

Overstay Depot Rates - These will follow the first rate slab for the terminal where the container has been discharged. The rate will be a flat rate, per day multiplied by the the amount of days that container has dwelled in the the Overstay Facility.

Export Detention

Direction	Days
Inland location to (Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth & East London)	10 Days
Coastal location to (Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth & East London)	5 Days
South African Coast to Mozambique & Hinterland	21 Days
South African Coast to Mozambique & Hinterland (TBL Truck)	30 Days

Export Detention Rates Valid from 1 April 2026

Per day rate after FT Expiry	20' Dry & NOR	40' Dry & NOR	20' Reef	40' Reef	20' Special / IMO	40' Special / IMO
Day 1 to 5	USD 88	USD 164	USD 147	USD 281	USD 141	USD 281
Day 6 to 10	USD 112	USD 211	USD 234	USD 469	USD 234	USD 469
Day 11 onwards	USD 147	USD 293	USD 293	USD 586	USD 293	USD 586