

Containers full of frozen food and chemicals are piling up at China's biggest port in Shanghai as a Covid lockdown in the city and compulsory virus testing means truckers can't get to the docks to pick up boxes, [Bloomberg](#) reports.

A shortage of trucks to haul containers from the port is impeding the clearance of imports, Ocean Network Express said in a customer advisory Wednesday.

While the port is operating normally, there are a "critically high" number of refrigerated containers and items classified as dangerous goods piled up at two storage yards, meaning some ships carrying those types of cargo may not be able to unload any more boxes at the port, it said.

Shanghai is now the epicenter of China's worst Covid outbreak in two years, with more than 21,000 cases [reported](#) just on Thursday.

The shortage of trucks is also hitting companies in the city, which have been able to continue working through the lockdown, with chip giant Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. struggling to secure trucks to ship out finished goods.

Truckers form a crucial component of supply chains in China, moving raw materials from coastal ports to factories further inland. The backlog is likely contributing to growing [ship queues](#) off China, threatening even more delays and higher freight rates in coming months.

Earlier in April Ocean Network Express reported that congestion at ports in China and elsewhere around the world is gridlocking about 10% of the global container-ship fleet, according to shipping line.

Ships are "locked up waiting in congested areas" and are burning lots of fuel, Jeremy Nixon, the chief executive officer of ONE, said at the Marine Money conference in Singapore on Tuesday April 5. "If we can release that bottleneck, we can get services back on schedule again."

The world's fleet consisted of 5,587 ships carrying 24.7 million TEUs of containers last year, data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture showed. That would mean more than 500 ships are being held up in queues at ports, according to Bloomberg calculations.