

December 2025

Kia ora,

Thank you for your continued support throughout 2025. We acknowledge the trust you've placed in us, and the strong partnerships we've been able to build. They'll stand us in good stead as our teams work tirelessly to ensure a smooth and reliable peak season for you and your customers.

This operational update outlines what we're doing to support you, and what we need from you to keep freight moving efficiently.

- **Service details** during the Christmas BOL 27 December to 26 January in Auckland and Wellington
- **Changes to freight cut-off times during the BOL**
- **Dangerous Goods freight reminders** – a shared responsibility for safety
- Container Terminal hours reminder – Christmas, New Years and Wellington Anniversary

Christmas Block of Line

This summer we're delivering the last big push on the Rail Network Rebuild (RNR) and other critical City Rail Link (CRL) preparations.

The Auckland rail network from 27 December to 26 January 2026. There will also be a BOL happening in Wellington over the same time. Please find an overview of the closures and their impacts on services below.

Overview:

- The Auckland Block of Line runs for four weeks through December and January. It starts at 6.00am on Saturday 27 December and runs through until 6.00pm on Sunday 18 January (including the statutory holidays Thursday 1 Jan and Friday 2 Jan)
- There is a concurrent full Block of Line between Wellington and Palmerston North from 6.00am on Saturday 27 December until 7.00pm Monday 5 Jan. **No freight will move over that corridor during this period. Note - The rail corridor will be open between Hamilton and Palmerston North.**
- A partial Block of Line will be in place between Wellington and Palmerston North between 5.00am and 7.00pm each day from Tuesday 6 January until Sunday 11 January. **Freight will run on this corridor each night between 7.00pm and 5.00am only. There are reduced services to accommodate the partial block.**
- The majority of customer sidings in Auckland will be inaccessible between 6.00am Sat 27 Dec to 6.00pm Sun 11 Jan.
- Customer sidings will be accessible in Auckland from 6.00pm Sun 11 Jan – excluding Coca Cola and Owens sidings. All sidings will be open from 6.00pm Sun 18 Jan



- Services to and from Auckland Port will resume from 6.00pm Sun 18 Jan.
- Services to and from Whangārei will resume from 12.00pm Mon 26 Jan
- A road-bridging operation will operate between Southdown CT site and Hamilton. Domestic freight will be split between our Crawford St and Frankton CT sites.
- Freight cut-off times will change for the 3 main weeks of closure due to different services running each week. See the table (blue) further on in this document for details. Please contact our Customer Delivery team on 0800 351 351 with any questions.
- For our import/export (IMEX) customers, the line from Hamilton to Tauranga is still open and accessible for freight travelling to the Port.

Reminder - Consignments within curtain-sider containers will need to be strapped down and secured to move on road.

The Auckland and Northland block of line:

First and last Domestic freight services around the BOL:

Last Outbound Premium	Last Inbound Premium	First Outbound Premium	First Inbound Premium
From Auckland	To Auckland	From Auckland	To Auckland
Service 217	Service 212	Service 217	Service 212
Tuesday 23 December	Wednesday 24 December	Monday 19 January	Tuesday 20 January
Last Outbound Domestic	Last Inbound Domestic	First Outbound Domestic	First Inbound Domestic
From Auckland	To Auckland	From Auckland	To Auckland
Service 211	Service 212	Service 229	Service 240
Wednesday 24 December.	Wednesday 24 December	Monday 19 January	Sunday 18 January

Note - Journey times for freight will be extended by a minimum of 24 hours. Different configurations of the block of lines may cause delays beyond 24 hours.

The Auckland BOL is split into 5 different blocks:



Block 1: Post Christmas

6.00am Saturday 27 December – 6.00am Monday 29 December

- All freight services cancelled Auckland – Hamilton.
- Whangārei services cancelled
- Port of Auckland shunts cancelled
- Majority of customer sidings inaccessible
- Road bridging operation starts 6.00am 27 December.

Last Domestic service South	Last Domestic Service North	Last MetroPort service South	Last MetroPort service North
Service 211	Service 222	Service MP9	Service MP10
24 December	24 December	26 December	26 December
	Last main Domestic service North		
	Service 212		
	24 December		

Services under road-bridging operation:

First service South	First service North	First service South MetroPort	First service North MetroPort
Service 229P	Service 222H	Service MH3	Service MH4
29 December	29 December	27 December	27 December

Note - Freight cut-off times will change for the 3 main weeks of closure due to different services running each week. Please contact our Customer Delivery team on 0800 351 351 with any questions.



Changes to freight cut-off times:

Train	Profile	Auckland	Notes
		Freight Cut-Off	
225H/W/X/Y	R225	9.00pm day before	
229P/H/W	R229	9.00pm day before	
215Y	R215	10.30am	Running ex HAM CT on 29th, 30th & 31st with road-bridging freight ex AUCK ONLY
217H/P	R217	10.30am day before	
247H	R247	8.00am SAT	

NOTE:

•NO customer drop off or pick up from Frankton CT during road-bridging operation

Block 2:

6.00am Monday 29 December – 6.00am Thursday 1 January

- Full network shut – All operators
- All freight cancelled Auckland - Hamilton
- Port of Auckland shunt cancelled, limited access to yard and customer sidings.

Road-bridging continues through this configuration. First rest day for truck drivers will be observed from 6.00pm 31 December to 6.00am 2 January.

Confirmed services:

Southbound	Southbound	Northbound	Northbound
Service 229P	Service 215Y	Service 222H	Service 228X
HAM-PNTH	HAM-PNTH	PNTH-HAM	PNTH-HAM
Dep 16:19	Dep 22:59	Dep 16:10	Dep 00:21
29/12 - 31/12	29/12 - 31/12	29/12 - 31/12	30/12 - 01/01



Block 3: Post New Years

6.00am Thursday 1 January – 6.00pm Sunday 11 January

- Whangārei services cancelled
- Port of Auckland shunts cancelled
- Mission Bush line open.
- Limited access to yard and customer sidings

The road-bridging cadence will increase to meet demand. After the New Years' rest period, Sunday rest periods will return to normal. This is a 24 hour stand down period from 6.00am Sunday to 6.00am Monday.

The Wellington BOL allows a single line running overnight to let two services through each day.

Confirmed services:

Southbound			
229W	215P	217P	225W
HAM-WGTN	HAM-PNTH	HAM-PNTH	HAM-WGTN
Dep 4:19pm	Dep 10:59pm	Dep 12:18am (note 217 CHCH tonnage will connect to 225W ex PNTH for same ferry connection)	Dep 10:20am
05/01 - 09/01	05/01 - 09/01	06/01 - 10/01	06/01 - 10/01
Northbound			
222H	228H	220W	234W
PNTH-HAM	PNTH-HAM	WGTN-HAM	WGTN-HAM
Dep 4:10pm	Dep 12:28am	Dep 6:43pm	Dep 05:15am
05/01 - 09/01	06/01 - 10/01	05/01 - 09/01	06/01 - 10/01



Block 4:

6.00pm Sunday 11 January – 6.00pm Sunday 18 January

- Whangārei services cancelled
- Port of Auckland shunts cancelled
- Mission Bush line open.
- Increased access to yard and customer sidings (Coca Cola and Owens still inaccessible)

Road-bridging will continue as normal.

Wellington BOL finishes, allows increased services to run to Wellington direct.

Confirmed services:

Southbound			
229H	215P	217H	225H
HAM-WGTN	HAM-PNTH	HAM-WGTN	HAM-WGTN
Dep 4:19pm	Dep 10:59pm	Dep 12:18am	Dep 10:20am
12/01 - 16/01	12/01 - 16/01	13/01 - 17/01	13/01 - 17/01
Northbound			
222H	228H	220H	234H
PNTH-HAM	PNTH-HAM	WGTN-HAM	WGTN-HAM
Dep 4:10pm	Dep 12:28am	Dep 6:43pm	Dep 5:15am
12/01 - 16/01	13/01 - 17/01	12/01 - 16/01	13/01 - 17/01

Block 5:

6.00pm Sunday 18 January – 12.00pm Monday 26 January

- Whangārei services cancelled
- Port of Auckland shunts running
- Mission Bush line open.
- Full access to yard and customer sidings



Road-bridging will cease at 6.00pm Sunday 18 January as freight services will resume from Monday 19 January.

First service South	First service North	First Metroport service South	First Metroport service North
Service 229	Service 240	Service MP1	Service MP4
Departs 12:33	Departs 05:35	Departs 06:21	Departs 04:11
Mon 19 January	Sunday 18 January	Sunday 18 January	Sunday 18 January

The Wellington block of line

6.00am Saturday 26 December – 4.00am Monday 5 Jan

Full Block of Line on North Island Main Trunk between Wellington – Palmerston North

Full Block of Line on Wairarapa Line Wellington – Masterton

Last services from Auckland before Christmas closure:			
Service 217	Service 225	Service 211	
23 December	24 December	24 December	
Departs 21:50	Departs 05:49	Departs 18:34	
Last service for Christchurch Domestic freight: (No CHCH tonnage after this)			
Service 217			
23 December			
Departs 21:50			
Last services for Wellington/Palmerston North Domestic freight			
Service 225	Service 211		



24 December	24 December		
Departs 05:49	Departs 18:34		

Notes:

- Any remaining tonnage for Palmerston North will travel on services from Monday 29 December.
- Line opened overnight only (7.00pm – 5.00am) from Monday 5 January - Sunday 11 January
- Full Block of Line on Wairarapa Line, Wellington – Masterton
- Service 229W and Service 225W are the only southbound services that can run through to WGTN for Domestic tonnage this week

4.00am Monday 12 Jan - Line reopens.

South Island

Main North Line: Picton – Christchurch

Last Domestic freight services on the MNL:

Location	Last service/s	Date	Depart	Arrive	Notes
Picton	717 to Christchurch	Wednesday 24 December	10.30pm ex Picton	5.30am into CHCH	Southbound
Christchurch	712 to Picton	Tuesday 23 December	9.40pm ex CHCH	5.21am into Picton	Northbound
Exception Picton	721 to Christchurch	Saturday 27 December	7.25am ex Picton	3.55pm into CHCH	Southbound. To connect last freight from final



					southbound service from Auckland on 23 rd .
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Domestic freight services on the MNL resume as follows:

Location	First service/s	Date	Depart	Arrive	Notes
Christchurch	712 to Picton	Monday 05 January	9.40pm ex CHCH	5.21am into Picton Tues 6 Jan	Northbound
Picton	735 to CHCH	Tues 6 January	5.10pm ex Picton	1.35am ex CHCH Wed 7 January	Southbound

Main South Line: Christchurch - Invercargill

Location	Last service/s	Date	Depart	Arrive	Notes
Christchurch	Last 'normal 919/933' services to Dunedin/ Invercargill	Tuesday 23 December	8:50pm 919 11:00pm 933	4:00am DNDN 8:50am INGIL 7:00am DNDN	Southbound



	Then 939	Sunday 28 December	5:00pm	12:30am	To take any Dunedin or Invercargill freight that would have travelled on 24 Dec. The freight will arrive at destination on Monday 29 Dec.
	Last 'normal 919/933' services to Dunedin/ Invercargill	Tuesday 30 December	8:50pm 919 11:00pm 933	4:00am DNDN 8:50am INGIL 7:00am DNDN	New Year's freight.
	Then 939	Sunday 4 January	5:00pm	12:30am	To take any Dunedin or Invercargill freight that would have travelled on 31 Dec
Dunedin	926D	Tuesday 23 December	10:30pm	7:00am	Northbound. Last service before Christmas.
	Then 962	Sunday 28 December	6:00pm	1:30am	Northbound. To take freight for



					CHCH and deliver on Monday 29 Dec.
	926D	Tuesday 30 December	10:30pm	7:00am	Northbound.
	Then 962	Sunday 4 January	6:00pm	7:00am	To take any freight to CHCH.

Overview of last freight services IMEX (import and exports)

Location	Last service/s	Date	Notes
Northland	120 and 129	Wed 24 December	Road-bridging between Auckland and Whangārei will be arranged by Coda.
			Kauri shunts will continue to operate from the Whangārei CT site during the BOL period.
Auckland Port shunts	Crosstown shunts: – Only 191 and 194 will run on Christmas Eve. Services 192 and 193 are cancelled.	Wednesday 24 December	Port operations will close at 7.00pm on Wednesday 24 December. While all shunts will run on 24th, the freight cut-off time



	Wiri shunts: The last Wiri shunts will be 164 and 165		impacts some services.
Auckland - Tauranga	MP12	Wednesday 24 December	Northbound.
	MP5	Wednesday 24 December	Southbound. Two services cancelled due to Port closure.
Hamilton - Tauranga	329	Wednesday 24 December	Ex Hamilton
	322	Wednesday 24 December	Ex Tauranga
Palmerston North	620 to Napier	Wednesday 24 December	With reefers (refrigerated containers)
	526 to New Plymouth	Wednesday 24 December	
	566 to Castlecliff	Wednesday 24 December	
	228 to Tauranga	Tuesday 23 December	
	211 to Wellington	Wednesday 24 December	
Palmerston North	225 to Wellington	Wednesday 24 December	Without reefers
	228 to Tauranga		



		Wednesday 24 December	
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Dangerous Goods Update: What you need to know

Handling Dangerous Goods (DG) safely is everyone's responsibility and is required under New Zealand Land Transport Regulations. To keep our people, sites, and your freight safe, please follow the key requirements below.

Remove Old Placards	Your DG Paperwork Must Be Spot On	48 Hours to Collect DG Containers (Dwell/Breach)
Before your container enters KiwiRail's network from any terminal or depot: - Remove all old or incorrect placards - Display correct DG class/subclass placards - Make sure placards are clean, visible, and secure Incorrect placards = delays, compliance issues/confusion and freight being left behind!	To move your freight safely, we need complete and correct DG documentation. This includes: - Fully completed DG Envelopes/DG Insert (G32) - Correct DG packaging - Accurate hazardous paperwork that meets legal requirements by NZTA - DG documentation must be submitted no later than 30 minutes prior to the cut-off time. For questions or help, contact the Customer Delivery Team promptly. - NORTH IMEX: imex@kiwirail.co.nz - SOUTH IMEX: southbookings@kiwirail.co.nz - BULK: bulk@kiwirail.co.nz - DOMESTIC: domestic@kiwirail.co.nz	Customer's responsibility to ensure that hazardous containers are collected within the maximum time period, before charges for failure to uplift apply. - Dwell time starts the moment the container arrives at CT site 48 hours apply to all classes, other than Class 1 which is only 24-hours dwell time. - Late collection = ancillary charge (failure to uplift) - Non-compliance may lead to regulatory penalties



	If your freight is traveling between the North and South Island on Ferry, you must also send documents to: krhazcoordinator@kiwirail.co.nz If paperwork is incomplete or incorrect, we will not be able to move your freight. <i>This protects our team, your shipment, and other customers.</i>	<i>Failure to uplift = \$3.000.00</i> <i>Applies per container / wagon</i> <i>For Class 1 - < 24 hours after arrival at destination Container or Rail Terminal (note that not all Class 1 products are able to travel on rail)</i> <i>For all other classes - < 48-hours after arrival at destination Container or Rail Terminal</i>
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The freight handling code has been updated with the information below, to help you source a G32 cover page for your Dangerous Goods paperwork.

- the envelope/G32 requirements
- examples of the types of envelopes used
- Link to KiwiRail's Bluestar Catalogue
- Link to the G32 envelope insert Excel template

This has been published here: [Section 7 - Conveyancing Responsibilities](#). The Excel template may also be accessed directly from here: [Dangerous Goods | KiwiRail Freight](#)

For more detailed information please visit us on <https://www.kiwirailfreight.co.nz/rail-freight/freight-handling-code>.

Quick Checklist before sending DG freight:

- ✓ Remove old placards
- ✓ Apply correct DG placards
- ✓ Complete DG Envelope insert
- ✓ Use compliant packaging
- ✓ Submit correct DG paperwork
- ✓ Arrange pickup within 48 hours or 24 hrs for class 1 (excluding site-closed days).



Container Terminal hours – Christmas and New Years

CONTAINER TERMINAL (CT) SITE TRUCK ACCEPTANCE HOURS CHRISTMAS & BOXING DAY – 25TH & 26TH DECEMBER 2025

Sites that are closed can open if required by prior arrangement – please contact the Service Centre on 0800 351 351 or freight@kiwirail.co.nz to arrange.

All changes to standard hours are marked in red.

Location	Tuesday 23 rd Dec	Wednesday 24 th Dec	Thursday 25 th Dec Christmas Day	Friday 26 th Dec Boxing Day	Saturday 27 th Dec	Sunday 28 th Dec	Monday 29 th Dec
Ashburton	0700-1700	0700-1700	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0700-1700
Auckland (Southdown)	0000-2359	0000-1800	CLOSED	0600-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359
Blenheim	0600-1740	0600-1740	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0800-1600
Christchurch	0500-1945	0500-1245	CLOSED	CLOSED	0500-1245	CLOSED	0500-1945
Dunedin	0500-1645	0500-1645	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0700-1500
Hamilton	0600-2130	0600-2130	CLOSED	0600-2130	0800-1330	CLOSED	0600-2130
Invercargill	0800-1600	0800-1600	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0800-1600
Napier	0700-1630	0700-1400	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0700-1630
New Plymouth	0700-1630	0700-1630	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0700-1630
Oamaru	0730-1630	0730-1630	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0730-1630
Palmerston North	0000-2359	0000-2359	0000-0330	CLOSED	0630-1130	CLOSED	0530-2359
Tauranga	0000-2359	0000-1800	CLOSED	0600-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359
Temuka	0600-1700	0600-1700	CLOSED	CLOSED	0800-1700	CLOSED	0600-1700
Timaru	0730-1600	0730-1600	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0700-1500
Wellington	0000-2359	0000-2200	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0800-1600
Whanganui	0700-1630	0700-1630	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0700-1630
Whangarei	0700-1445	0700-1445	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0700-1900

For any queries about these hours or anything else regarding KiwiRail Freight, please contact the Service Centre on 0800 351 351 or freight@kiwirail.co.nz.

Refer to our website [KiwiRail Freight](https://www.kiwirail.co.nz/freight) for more information such as addresses and normal hours of operation.



CONTAINER TERMINAL (CT) SITE TRUCK ACCEPTANCE HOURS NEW YEARS DAY AND DAY AFTER – 1ST & 2ND JANUARY 2026

Sites that are closed can open if required by prior arrangement – please contact the Service Centre on 0800 351 351 or freight@kiwirail.co.nz to arrange.

All changes to standard hours are marked in red.

Location	Tuesday 30 th Dec	Wednesday 31 st Dec	Thursday 1 st Jan New Year's Day	Friday 2 nd Jan Day after New Year's	Saturday 3 rd Jan	Sunday 4 th Jan	Monday 5 th Jan
Ashburton	0700-1700	0700-1700	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0700-1700
Auckland (Southdown)	0000-2359	0000-1400	CLOSED	0600-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359
Blenheim	0800-1600	0800-1600	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0600-1740
Christchurch	0500-1945	0500-1245	CLOSED	CLOSED	0500-1245	0500-1245	0500-1945
Dunedin	0700-1500	0700-1500	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0500-1645
Hamilton	0600-2130	0600-2130	0600-2130	0600-2130	0800-1330	CLOSED	0600-2130
Invercargill	0800-1600	0800-1600	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0800-1600
Napier	0700-1630	0700-1400	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0700-1630
New Plymouth	0700-1630	0700-1630	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0700-1630
Oamaru	0730-1630	0730-1630	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0730-1630
Palmerston North	0000-2359	0000-2359	0000-0330	CLOSED	0630-1130	CLOSED	0530-2359
Tauranga	0000-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359
Temuka	0600-1700	0600-1700	CLOSED	CLOSED	0800-1700	CLOSED	0600-1700
Timaru	0700-1500	0700-1500	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0730-1600
Wellington	0800-1600	0800-1600	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0600-2359
Whanganui	0700-1630	0700-1630	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0700-1630
Whangarei	0700-1900	0700-1900	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	0700-1900

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CONTAINER TERMINAL (CT) SITE
TRUCK ACCEPTANCE HOURS
WELLINGTON ANNIVERSARY DAY – 19TH JANUARY 2026

Sites that are closed can open if required by prior arrangement – please contact the Service Centre on 0800 351 351 or freight@kiwirail.co.nz to arrange.

All changes to standard hours are marked in red.

Location	Friday 16 th Jan	Saturday 17 th Jan	Sunday 18 th Jan	Monday 19 th Jan Wellington Anniversary	Tuesday 20 th Jan	Wednesday 21 st Jan	Thursday 23 rd Jan
Palmerston North	0000-2359	0000-1130	CLOSED	0530-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359
Wellington	0000-2359	0000-1330	CLOSED	CLOSED	0000-2359	0000-2359	0000-2359

For any queries about these hours or anything else regarding KiwiRail Freight, please contact the Service Centre on 0800 351 351 or freight@kiwirail.co.nz.

Refer to our website [KiwiRail Freight](https://www.kiwirail.co.nz/freight) for more information such as addresses and normal hours of operation.

Note – These hours are an indication only and may be subject to change. Please check the KiwiRail Freight website for updates <https://www.kiwirailfreight.co.nz/rail-freight/ct-site-locations>

Wishing you, your team and your whānau a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year, whether you're working through or taking a break. Our Customer Delivery teams or your Key Account Executive will be there to assist if you need. Otherwise, we'll get in touch again soon.

Ngā mihi mahana,
the team at KiwiRail.

