

THE SHIPPING STANDARD

OUR EXPERTISE • YOUR ADVANTAGE

JUNE 2026

ISSUE 96

Choose Wisely: U.S. Supreme Court Rules Brokers Can Be Held Liable For Accidents Caused By Carriers They Hire.



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Choose Wisely: U.S. Supreme Court Rules Brokers Can Be Held Liable For Accidents Caused By Carriers They Hire

The U.S. Supreme Court's unanimous decision in *Montgomery vs. Caribe II* should give the entire logistics industry pause. The ruling establishes that brokers can be held responsible for accidents caused by the carriers they hire, marking a significant shift in accountability.

This decision opens a new era of heightened scrutiny that will extend well beyond brokers. It will influence how shippers select partners and will likely narrow the pool of available carriers.

As brokers face increased legal exposure, they will need to secure higher insurance coverage, driving up operating costs that will ultimately be passed on to shippers through higher rates.

“Working with a lower cost but questionable provider now carries significant risk,” said Anthony Fullbrook, President of OEC Group’s North American Region. “The decision clearly encourages brokers to partner with companies that follow regulations and have a proven track record of safety and reliability.”

The impact on shippers is equally important. With stricter standards and fewer compliant carriers in the market, choices will become more limited. Reduced competition may place upward pressure on pricing, and higher insurance premiums across the supply chain will further contribute to rising transportation costs.

In response, industry experts recommend that shippers prioritize established freight forwarders with strong, vetted carrier networks and rigorous compliance standards. These partners offer an added layer of assurance that carriers meet federal requirements and operate safely. This disciplined approach reflects structured risk management processes designed to protect shippers from financial and operational exposure.

“The right partner helps insulate operations from regulatory surprises, litigation exposure, and service disruption,” said Logan Cooper, head of OEC Group’s St. Louis office. “Forwarders with strong carrier vetting, internal audits, and active oversight are better positioned to adapt as legal standards evolve. More importantly, they align with what shippers value most: safe, reliable transportation that safeguards people, freight, business continuity, and the broader public.”



INTERVIEW

SAGE ADVICE: TWO INDUSTRY LEADERS OFFER GUIDANCE ON HOW TO NAVIGATE CURRENT CHALLENGES AFFECTING THE LOGISTICS INDUSTRY

Today, everyone seems to have an opinion on how shippers and industry leaders should navigate the conflict in the Middle East and continuing tariff uncertainty. Hanna Stelzel, Director Containers, Port of Rotterdam and Bryan Glick, Founder and CEO of Chain.io discuss how the current geopolitical environment is impacting global logistics and offer practical guidance on how shippers can best respond.

Hanna Stelzel, Director Containers, Port of Rotterdam sat down with OEC Group to discuss what changes she has been seeing at the port in light of geopolitical tensions as she describes how Port of Rotterdam continues to connect Europe with the rest of the world.



Bryan Glick, Founder and CEO of Chain.io talks exclusively to OEC Group about the chaotic and fast moving nature of global supply chains. Mr. Glick explains how data agility and having clean, organized, and accessible information is essential for shippers to respond quickly to shifting conditions, especially in a volatile tariff and geopolitical environment.





NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER MAKE CUSTOMS BROKERS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

The latest executive order from the Trump Administration is taking direct aim at our industry.

The order empowers Customs and Border Protection (CBP) with advanced technology, including artificial intelligence capable of analyzing massive volumes of shipment data in real time. This allows authorities to identify discrepancies, detect tariff evasion, and flag irregularities with unprecedented speed and precision.

For importers, the implication is clear. The margin for error is disappearing. Practices that may have previously gone unnoticed or unchallenged, such as misclassification, undervaluation, incomplete importer of record data, or indirect routing through third countries, are now far more likely to be flagged and trigger enforcement.

A key driver behind this push is revenue recovery. The U.S. government has estimated that tens of billions of dollars in duties are lost to tariff evasion, shifting enforcement from a compliance exercise to a collection strategy. Importers will no longer be operating in an environment of periodic audits and selective reviews. Instead, they will be operating in a world of continuous monitoring and heightened financial exposure.

For many importers, particularly those managing complex global supply chains, the challenge is execution. Regulations continue to evolve, enforcement tools are becoming more sophisticated, and the cost of getting it wrong is rising sharply. Penalties, shipment delays, cargo holds, and reputational damage can all stem from even minor compliance failures.

This is where working with a reputable customs broker becomes essential. An experienced broker does far more than process entries.

They act as a strategic partner, ensuring classifications are accurate, valuations are properly documented, and importer records are compliant. They help navigate regulatory shifts, anticipate risk, and build processes that stand up to scrutiny. Most importantly, they serve as an advocate when issues arise.

A broker backed by a global organization also provides access to broader market intelligence, established relationships, and real-time visibility across trade lanes.

In an environment where enforcement is increasingly coordinated and data-driven, this level of support enables shippers to act quickly, respond effectively, and defend their position when challenged.

This executive order is not a short-term policy shift. It reflects a broader transformation toward a more controlled, transparent, and enforcement-driven trade landscape. As regulations evolve, the burden on shippers will only increase.

For companies that are unprepared, the consequences can be severe. A single misstep or overlooked detail can disrupt operations and erode profitability. Working with a trusted, experienced customs broker is no longer optional. It is a critical safeguard for maintaining compliance and protecting your business. Bottom line, the shippers who succeed will not be the ones who react. They will be the ones who prepare.



Dear Ahab:

What does the future hold for East Coast ports, and which will be the best option in the near and long term for efficiently importing my goods?

– Always Prepared

Dear Always Prepared:

The future of East Coast ports is strong, supported by population growth, significant infrastructure investment, and a continued shift of cargo from the West Coast. Ports such as New York and New Jersey, Savannah, and Charleston are all strengthening their roles as reliable gateways, each offering distinct advantages.

New York and New Jersey stand out for its scale, connectivity, and proximity to major consumption markets, making it a consistent choice for speed to market. Savannah continues to excel in efficiency and expansion, with a well-earned reputation for fluid operations and strong inland reach. Charleston offers a compelling balance of capacity and ongoing investment, with a lower congestion profile at times, supported by its smaller scale and more distributed volume base.

Because each port brings different strengths, there is no single clear choice. The most effective strategy is to work with a logistics partner that can leverage multiple gateways and adapt as conditions shift. Flexibility, supported by strong partnerships, will consistently outperform reliance on any single port.

Dear Ahab:

Ocean carriers are increasingly deploying blank sailing strategies to manage and tighten available capacity. What do I need to do to put my business in the best position to succeed?

– Cancel Culture

Dear Cancel Culture:

When carriers begin to blank sailings, the most effective response is to align yourself with partners who have strong, established carrier relationships and access to diversified capacity. These partners can help distribute your volume across multiple services and provide viable alternatives when disruptions arise.

It also requires discipline. The lowest rate may be tempting, but it often comes at the expense of reliability when the market tightens. Prioritizing consistency and credibility with carriers put your business in a stronger position when space becomes limited.

In this environment, stability wins. Reliable partnerships, supported by thoughtful planning, will keep your freight moving while less prepared shippers are left waiting.

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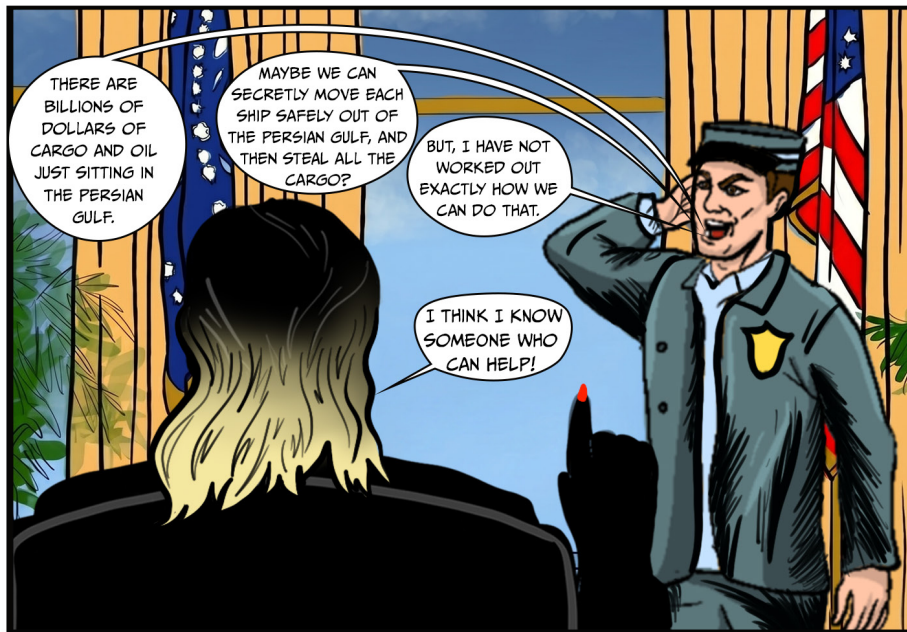
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JUNE

by
MEGAN DOHERTY



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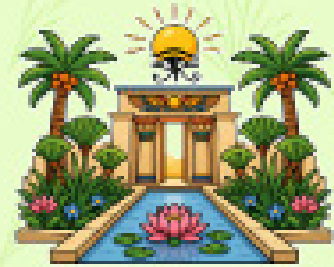


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Fun Facts About GARDENING



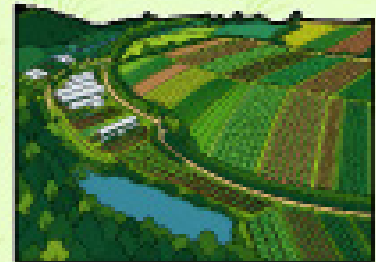
Gardening has been shown to reduce stress and boost mood.



In ancient Egypt, gardens were used for spiritual purposes and were seen as symbols of paradise.



A garden can increase property value by up to 20%.



The world's largest vegetable garden is located in the UK, covering over 100 acres.



Gardening helps reduce our overall carbon footprint.



Gardening helps expose you to beneficial microorganisms, which can improve your body's defences.



Gardening engages the brain by requiring planning, problem-solving, and attention to detail, which can help improve your cognitive function.



Gardening activities like bending, squatting, and lifting help improve flexibility and posture by engaging your core and leg muscles.

WORD WHEEL

Directions:

Insert the missing letter to complete the nine-letter word reading either clockwise or counterclockwise.



OEC@GROUP

ABOUT

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As an industry pioneer, OEC Group has become one of the world's leading logistics companies. We leverage in-house expertise, carrier partnerships, connections with ports and transportation hubs, and our network of offices in North America, Europe, Asia, India, South America, Australia, and the Middle East, to provide freight transportation, logistics, information, customs and brokerage, insurance, and technical services to over 50,000 customers of various sizes and industries.

We are also highly sought after for the advice we give shippers on how to optimally manage their supply chains. The guidance we provide is based on data analytics, best practices, and decades of industry knowledge.

We believe that relationships matter and treat your cargo as our own. Our experts are always investing in efficient, cost-effective, and cutting-edge services to evolve with the ever-changing market, address the complexities of any client's supply chain, and consistently perform at the highest level for our customers.

Our business is making our logistics expertise, your competitive advantage.

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