19 March 2021

Notice to Associations

Paperless Workflow for Import Container Release on 1 July 2021

To enhance the competitiveness of the Port of Hong Kong and to facilitate Hong Kong to become a Smart Port for the future generation, members of Hong Kong Container Terminal Operators Association (HKCTOA) have launched a digitalisation initiative in 2018, the first step of which is to improve the documentation exchange for import containers. While the development of alternative e-solutions are welcome and in line with our initiative, OnePort has offered the Electronic Release Order (eRO) service to the community to transform the import cargo workflow to paperless. Over the years, eRO has become widely adopted by the industry.

Since the full implementation of eRO in February 2020, the feature has proven to be a fast, convenient, secured online exchange of import documents and instructions for release of laden containers at container terminals to minimise human interaction and improve supply chain efficiency, which is of even greater importance in overcoming the challenges brought by the pandemic.

In view of the industry demand for a concerted effort to increase resilience and enhance the agility of the operation through digitalisation, HKCTOA members will go for paperless release of import containers in full scale with effect from **1 July 2021**. As of that date, the presentation of QR code at the container terminals' gatehouse will become the mode for the release of import laden containers to truckers.

As key stakeholders of the maritime community, we appreciate your full support to share this arrangement with your members and join hands with the industry in rolling out the eRO. We look forward to embracing the huge collaborative benefits of digitalisation to promote efficient and secure trade through the use of electronic documents and greater supply chain visibility.

Members of HKCTOA include Asia Container Terminals, COSCO-HIT Terminals, Goodman DP World, Hongkong International Terminals, and Modern Terminals.