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Institute of Logistics
and Transport

North
America

Transportation's Top Stories

Air Transport Updates

CANADA

Passengers describe travel nightmare after WestJet flight from Costa Rica cancelled



Source: Statcan

It was a travel nightmare that left more than 100 passengers, including Ottawa residents, stranded in Costa Rica in the final week of December 2024. A WestJet flight that was supposed to take off from Liberia, Costa Rica to Toronto on December 28, 2024 instead sat on the tarmac at the airport for five hours before being cancelled altogether. The incident left dozens without overnight accommodations or food, some people with babies and wheelchairs. For one Ottawa family, it was a travel nightmare after a much-needed getaway during the holidays. WestJet is apologizing for the disruptions and says the initial delay was due to customs issues. "We sincerely apologize to guests travelling on WS2171 for the inconvenience they experienced on their recent travel journey from Liberia to Toronto. We can confirm that WS2171 was initially delayed on Saturday, December 28 by customs," the airline said in a statement to CTV News Ottawa.

Passengers describe travel nightmare after WestJet flight from Costa Rica cancelled, December 29, 2024, www.ctv.news.ca

US/WORLD

October 2016 U.S. Airline Traffic Data

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on December 30, 2024 reported that U.S. airlines' systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service load factor – a measure of the use of airline capacity – rose to 83.8 percent in October, seasonally adjusted, rising for the second consecutive month. *October 2016 U.S. Airline Traffic Data, December 30, 2024, www.bts.gov*

Take-off of French cargo airship startup flying whales neither smooth nor simple but investors keep Faith



Source: AJOT

The company has twice been refused planning permission for its preferred production site at Laruscade, in the Bordeaux region, on environmental grounds and as a result, has pushed back its maiden

commercial flight by several years to the end of the decade. The airship manufacturing plant would require two 250 metre-long hangars, each almost 70 metres high. In a judgment issued as recently as 24 October 2024, the State Environmental Agency (EA) said the site was particularly rich ecologically' and constituted 'a large, natural wetland' and is the habitat of several protected species. Meanwhile, on the design side, a number of experts have cast doubts on the technical feasibility of the hybrid-electric VTOL, code-named LCA60T which will be tailored to transporting exceptionally heavy or oversized loads of up to 60 tonnes to and from remote and inaccessible areas. The choice of helium as a fuel has also been questioned. And yet, in the face of such turbulence the company has maintained its course, having little trouble garnering funding for the project from both public and private sectors. It is currently preparing its fourth funding round having already raised a total of €230 million since the project was launched. The most recent investment call was completed in June 2022 which raised €122 million. It saw the participation of the French State and the Principality of Monaco, who joined the Canadian State of Quebec, already a 25% shareholder.

Take-off of French cargo airship startup flying whales neither smooth nor simple but investors keep Faith, December 27, 2024, www.ajot.com

USDOT Fines Lufthansa and Swiss for Operating Flights Carrying a U.S. Carrier's Code in Prohibited Airspace

On December 30, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) fined Deutsche Lufthansa AG (Lufthansa) \$220,000 and Swiss International Air Lines AG (Swiss) \$200,000 for operating flights carrying United Airlines' designator code in regions in which a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) flight prohibition was in effect for U.S. operators. The airlines were ordered to cease and desist from future similar violations.

USDOT Fines Lufthansa and Swiss for Operating Flights Carrying a U.S. Carrier's Code in Prohibited Airspace, December 30, 2024, www.dot.gov



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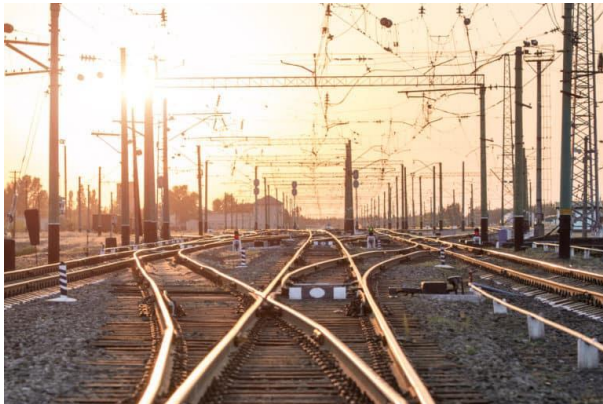
North
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Transportation's Top Stories

Rail Transport Updates

CANADA

3 Reasons to Load Up on Canadian National Railway Stock



Source: Yahoo

Canadian National Railway is a powerful player in the Canadian stock market and an exceptional opportunity for investors looking to build long-term wealth. Because of the recent pullback in the stock, now may be the perfect time to buy this [blue-chip stock](#). Here's why you shouldn't hesitate to invest in CN Rail today. Three major reasons for the optimism are; 1. Reliable long-term returns; 2. Resilient earnings and strong growth potential; and 3. A health dividend that grows over time. *3 Reasons to Load Up on Canadian National Railway Stock, January 2, 2024, www.finance.yahoo.com*

US/WORLD

AAR: North American Rail Volume Up Through Week 51



Source: Railway Age

Total North American carload and intermodal traffic rose 2.3% through the first 51 weeks of 2024 compared with the same period last year, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported Dec. 27, 2024. The United States and Mexico experienced gains while Canada saw losses through the week ending Dec. 21, 2024. For the first 51 weeks of 2024, U.S. railroads reported cumulative volume of 11,152,384 carloads, down 3.0 percent from the same point last year; and 13,636,502 intermodal units, up 9.3 percent from last year. Total combined U.S. traffic for the first 51 weeks of 2024 was 24,788,886 carloads and intermodal units, an increase of 3.4 percent compared to last year. North American rail volume for the week ending December 21, 2024, on 9 reporting U.S., Canadian and Mexican railroads totaled 338,812 carloads, down 0.6 percent compared with the same week last year, and 375,064 intermodal units, up 10.5 percent compared with last year. Total combined weekly rail traffic in North America was 713,876 carloads and intermodal units, up 4.9 percent. North American rail volume for the first 51 weeks of 2024 was 34,342,887 carloads and intermodal units, up 2.3 percent compared with 2023. Canadian railroads reported 92,807 carloads for the week, down 1.1 percent, and 69,112 intermodal units,

down 1.6 percent compared with the same week in 2023. For the first 51 weeks of 2024, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 8,089,688 carloads, containers and trailers, down 1.0 percent. [AAR: North American Rail Volume Up Through Week 51, December 27, 2024, www.railwayage.com](#)

International intermodal market enters “constrained” 2025: analyst



Source: JOC

The US intermodal system has handled the extended peak season surge reasonably well, without experiencing the service disruptions that were widespread during the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year proved to be a strong but turbulent year for North American intermodal. The sector was the recipient of a potent stew of exterior events, some entirely foreseeable and others truly of the “black swan” variety. Overall activity was up significantly, with North American intermodal originations growing 7.5% year over year through the first week of December 2024, according to data from the Association of American Railroads (AAR). The horsepower behind the gain came from the international side of the market. In the first 10 months of 2024, North American revenue movements of ISO containers jumped 15% above prior year.

International intermodal market enters “constrained” 2025: analyst, December 27, 2024, [www.joc.com](#)



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Marine Transport Updates

CANADA

Second attempt to free ship stranded in St. Lawrence River set for Sunday



Source: Financial Post

The bulk carrier MV Maccoa ran aground near Vercheres, Que., in the early hours of Dec. 24 following a power failure. A tugboat tries to release the MV Maccoa after it ran aground in the St. Lawrence River in Vercheres, Que., Friday, Dec. 27, 2024. A second attempt to free a ship stuck in the St. Lawrence River northeast of Montreal won't take place until December 29, 2024. The Canadian Coast Guard says the owner of the MV Maccoa plans to unload more than 3,000 metric tons of corn to lighten the weight of the vessel. The coast guard had said the operation could begin on Jan. 1, after a first attempt ended in failure last week, but the new plan is to start unloading the cargo on January 2, 2025 and try to re-float the ship on January, 2025 .

Second attempt to free ship stranded in St. Lawrence River set for Sunday, December 31, 2024, www.financialpost.ca

US/WORLD

Tariffs, ILA tension, early Lunar New Year boost Q1 trans-Pacific forecast



Source: JOC

The eastbound trans-Pacific rebounded in a big way last year, and although growth is expected to moderate in 2025, frontloading of spring merchandise ahead of tariffs threatened by US President-elect Donald Trump and an early Lunar New Year should keep cargo volumes and spot rates elevated into the first quarter. Carrier on-time performance in the busiest US trade lane continued to languish throughout 2024, with no noticeable improvements foreseen as geopolitical turmoil continues to disrupt global shipping patterns. An early and extended peak season pushed trans-Pacific imports up 17.7% through November, putting pressure on Southern California ports.

Tariffs, ILA tension, early Lunar New Year boost Q1 trans-Pacific forecast, December 27, 2024, www.joc.com

Suez toll revenue drops 60%; canal tests two-way traffic



Source: Freightwaves

Suez Canal revenue has plunged 60% this year, a loss of \$7 billion for Egypt, amid attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and ongoing regional tensions. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in a statement blamed rising geopolitical challenges for the decline but offered no other details, according to published reports. Egypt collects tolls on vessels that transit the canal, a key route for maritime commerce. That amounted to \$9.4 billion in 2023, or 15% of the foreign currency entering the country. At the same time, a dredging project to test two-way vessel transit was termed a success, the Suez Canal Authority said in a statement on December 28, 2024. Currently only some sections of the canal accommodate two-way transits via a parallel waterway opened in 2015. Two-way traffic could eventually increase the waterway's vessel capacity, and avoid catastrophic shutdowns such as the 2021 grounding of the container ship Ever Given which blocked canal traffic for six days. *Suez toll revenue drops 60%; canal tests two-way traffic, December 27, 2024, www.freightwaves.com*

US LNG gas demand hits record high on last day of the year



Source: AJOT

U.S. natural gas demand from LNG plants hit a record on December 31, 2024, the last day of the year, climbing to 15.2 billion cubic feet (bcf) in a sign of a strong year ahead from the startup of two new gas-processing plants, preliminary data from financial firm LSEG showed. U.S. natural gas demand for LNG plants is forecast to rise to 17.8 bcf next year with the commissioning of Venture Global LNG's 20 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) Plaquemines plant in Louisiana and Cheniere Energy's Corpus Christi Stage 3 expansion in Texas. Demand for natural gas by LNG export plants could spur higher production in the U.S. and increase prices at the country's main gas exchange in Louisiana, called Henry Hub, according to analysts. Gas prices were up 48 cents in midday trading on Tuesday, at \$3.94 per million cubic feet (mcf), according to LSEG data.

US LNG gas demand hits record high on last day of the year, December 31, 2024, www.ajot.com

CMA CGM delays US East Coast container surcharge

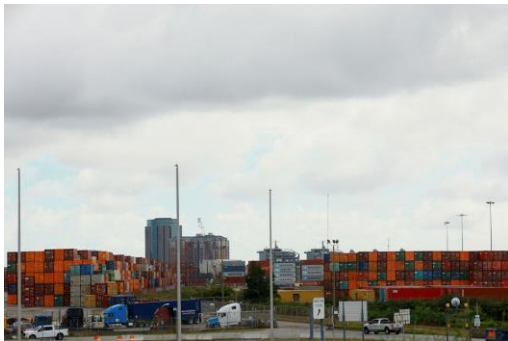


Source: Freightwaves

Ocean container carrier CMA CGM is delaying a key U.S. surcharge, instead pairing implementation of two related surcharges later this month. On January 2, 2024 the French liner operator postponed from Jan. 1 to Jan. 15 a peak-season surcharge of \$1,500 per unit on cargo moving from the Indian subcontinent, Middle East Gulf region, Red Sea and Egypt to the U.S. East and Gulf coasts. While peak season surcharges aren't unusual, the postponement follows [a report by FreightWaves](#) that negotiations between the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) on a new pact are expected to resume shortly. While neither side has officially confirmed a resumption of bargaining, sources said the parties have been talking informally since the ILA pulled out of negotiations in November 2024.

CMA CGM delays US East Coast container surcharge, January 2, 2025, www.freightwaves.com

US East Coast dockworkers, employer group to restart talks next week



Source: AJOT

The International Longshoremen's Association and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) are set to resume contract talks on Jan. 7, 2025 according to a person familiar with the matter. Talks between the ILA, which represents more than 45,000 dockworkers across the U.S. East and Gulf coast ports, and the employer group are at an impasse over issues related to automation at port terminals. Both parties signed a tentative deal in October, which gave workers a 62% wage hike over six years, to end a three-day strike but left issues related to automation unresolved. Another coast-wide strike at U.S. East and Gulf coast ports looms large if an agreement is not reached before Jan. 15, 2025 which will not only halt billions in trade but also raise inflationary pressures and threaten existing supply chains.

US East Coast dockworkers, employer group to restart talks next week, January 2, 2024, www.ajot.com



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Transportation's Top Stories

Road Transport Updates

CANADA

The Top 5 Canadian trucking stories of 2024

It's been a year. A year ago, there was hope 2024 would be defined by the end of a persistent trucking recession and the return to more prosperous times for the industry. There was hope capacity would come back into balance with freight demand, and rates would improve. There was hope inflation would be tamed and trucking costs would level off, if not decrease. There was hope the government would get serious about enforcing issues around driver misclassification and restore fairness to the marketplace. The top five stories of 2024 were: 1. Trucking recession continues. 2. Falling of Pride Group of Companies. 3. Clamping down of immigration. 4. Misclassifying of drivers continues. 5. Trucking gets cleaner but challenges arise.

The Top 5 Canadian trucking stories of 2024, December 30, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com

Atlas Canada buys Orbit Brokers

Atlas Canada Van lines has purchased Canadian customs brokerage, Orbit Brokers. The deal closes Jan. 1, 2025 giving Atlas the ability to provide customs clearance for clients in the U.S. and Canada. "Orbit Brokers' proven track record in customs brokerage perfectly complements our service model, ensuring our agents and clients benefit from an integrated, seamless solution for all relocation and logistics needs," said Fred Haladay, president and COO of Atlas Canada.

Atlas Canada buys Orbit Brokers, December 31, 2024, www.todaystrucking.com

US/WORLD

Biden-Harris Administration awards \$1.7 million to Massachusetts to improve safety on America's roadways

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on December 30, 2024 announced a \$1.7 million grant award to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to fund pre-construction activities for a wildlife crossing project along the Appalachian Trail over Interstate 90 in the western part of the state. Massachusetts is one of 16 grant recipients selected to receive funding in the second round of \$125 million grants for 16 wildlife crossing projects nationwide, including one Native American Tribe. The funding is available through the Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program, a new grant program in its second round of awards that was created by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Biden-Harris Administration awards \$1.7 million to Massachusetts to improve safety on America's roadways, December 30, 2024, www.ajot.com

LTL carriers expanding networks to prepare for long-term growth



Source: JOC

US less-than-truckload (LTL) carriers are preparing for the next surge in demand, adding terminals and terminal doors even though freight demand is still tepid. They see demand for industrial freight and retail goods increasing in 2025 and believe there's not enough LTL capacity in the market to meet that demand. LTL rates began rising in 2023 and remain elevated, and that's unlikely to change in 2025, with carriers seeking additional price hikes in the mid- to high-single-digit percentage range. US LTL carriers issued general rate increases ranging from 4.9% to 7.9% in the fourth quarter.

LTL carriers expanding networks to prepare for long-term growth, January 2, 2024, www.joc.com



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Transportation's Top Stories

Other Transport Updates

CANADA

CBSA to adjust hours at some land entry ports on Jan.6



Source: Today's Trucking

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has announced adjustments to hours of service at 35 land ports of entry across Canada, effective Monday, Jan.6, at 12:01 a.m. in local time zones. Of those, eight locations will affect commercial vehicles. The changes, developed in collaboration with the U.S., aim to enhance border security and improve resource allocation at busier crossings, supporting both countries' efforts to process travelers and goods efficiently, the CBSA said in a release. These updates align with U.S. service hours at many ports of entry, allowing for smoother management of inadmissible travelers and goods, which is challenging when one side of the border is closed. The adjustments follow an analysis of operational demands, peak periods, and service needs, with efforts to minimize impacts on border communities.

CBSA to adjust hours at some land entry ports on Jan.6, January 2, 2025, www.todaystrucking.ca

US/WORLD

ITS Logistics November Supply Chain Report: Inflationary pressure and monetary policy uncertainty among list of concerns that could impact supply chain in 2025

ITS Logistics released the November ITS Supply Chain Report. Last month, the U.S. economy displayed resilience amidst a transitioning monetary policy and external disruptions but faced ongoing challenges in housing affordability, labor market cooling, and inflationary stickiness. Growth prospects also remain modestly positive, with fiscal and monetary adjustments likely to play key roles in 2025. Despite having a positive outcome for November, the U.S. economic outlook is influenced by several key risks that could impact growth and stability in the near term. These key concerns include inflationary pressure, monetary policy uncertainty, global economic uncertainty, and consumer confidence. "Recent data indicates that inflation remains a concern, with the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index expected to rise by 2.5% in November, up from 2.3% in October," said ITS Logistics CFO Stan Kolev. "This upward trend suggests that inflation is becoming more persistent, which may compel the Federal Reserve to maintain higher interest rates for an extended period, potentially dampening economic growth."

ITS Logistics November Supply Chain Report: Inflationary pressure and monetary policy uncertainty among list of concerns that could impact supply chain in 2025, December 27, 2024, www.ajot.com

E-commerce is air cargo golden egg but there's a

downside



Source: AJOT

Cross-border e-commerce has indisputably become air cargo's golden egg in recent years to a point where it is no exaggeration to suggest that it is fast-becoming the sector's leading commodity surpassing general cargo. Its ascendancy has put a squeeze on the capacity available to other verticals, driving up rates across the sector. The online purchasing boom for consumer goods showed few if any signs of slowing in 2024 and it is very likely that this will continue to be the case in 2025. The sheer size of airborne cross-border e-commerce traffic can be gauged from the reports earlier this year estimating that Chinese online marketplaces Temu and Shein alone were flying 4,000 tons and 5,000 tons daily respectively and one can safely assume such volumes have increased since. There is a downside to the phenomenon, due to the vast amount of air cargo capacity it is soaking up and which has led to significant changes in the very physiognomy of transport chains. One industry source estimates that for a number of carriers operating on routes from Asia Pacific to the U.S. and Europe, cross-border e-commerce now absorbs up to 80% of their capacity out of the region. This is said to be driving a wedge between airlines and forwarders, the former leaning towards direct collaboration with major e-commerce players and their logistics partners with the signature of block space agreements (BSA). The upshot is the sidelining of some so-called traditional forwarders.

E-commerce is air cargo golden egg but there's a downside, December 27, 2024, www.ajot.com

into 7 focus areas that reflect the topics in BTS's legislative mandate, including some new data items.

Transportation Statistical Annual Report 2024, December 31, 2024, www.bts.gov



A Transportation Finance Statistics Makeover

On December 31, 2024, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) released Transportation Public Finance Statistics (TPFS) final annual estimates for the first time. This release replaces the June preliminary estimate with actuals. TPFS provides information on transportation-related revenue and expenditures for all levels of Government, including Federal, state, and local, and for all modes of transportation. This data program replaced the former Government Transportation Financial Statistics (GTFS).

A Transportation Finance Statistics Makeover, December 31, 2024, www.bts.gov



Transportation Statistical Annual Report 2024

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) is pleased to release the 2024 edition of the Transportation Statistical Annual Report (TSAR). This 30th-anniversary edition of TSAR documents how the transportation system has changed through economic booms, a major recession, and the shock of a pandemic. The 2024 TSAR is organized



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Job Postings

* **Supply Chain - Recent Grad/Full Time, Honeywell, United States**

About the Role

As a Supply Chain Analyst here at Honeywell, you will play a crucial role in optimizing our supply chain operations and ensuring the efficient flow of goods and materials. You will work closely with cross-functional teams to analyze data, identify areas for improvement, and implement strategies to enhance supply chain efficiency. Your work will directly impact our ability to meet customer demands, reduce costs, and maintain a competitive edge in the market.

In This Role, You Will

Analyze supply chain data and identify trends, patterns, and opportunities for improvement

Collaborate with cross-functional teams to develop and implement supply chain strategies

Monitor inventory levels and ensure timely replenishment to meet production demands

Coordinate with suppliers and logistics partners to optimize transportation and delivery processes

Identify and implement cost-saving initiatives to improve supply chain efficiency

Utilize supply chain management software and tools to track and manage inventory

Transportation's Top Stories Other CILT News

Location: This position is available in multiple locations across the United States.

Pay Range

The annual salary range for this position is \$68,000/yr-\$87,500/yr. Please note that this salary information serves as a general guideline. Honeywell considers various factors when extending an offer, including but not limited to the scope and responsibilities of the position, the candidate's work experience, education and training, key skills, as well as market and business considerations.

Minimum Qualifications

Must be currently pursuing a bachelor's degree (or higher) from an accredited college or university in Supply Chain, Manufacturing Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Operations, Procurement, or similar field

Must have graduate from an accredited college or university between December 2024 and May 2025 and be available to begin full-time work between January 2025 - July 2025

Must have obtained degree within 12 months of the date of hire

To apply, please visit: <https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/4010951285>

* **Logistics and Inventory Specialist, ORBCOMM, Ottawa, ON**

Are you ready to make a significant impact in an innovative environment? At ORBCOMM, we're on the hunt for a passionate **Logistics and Inventory Specialist** who thrives in a fast-paced, agile setting. We want you to transform your ideas into action and drive our mission forward!

Why You'll Love Working Here

As a key member of our Manufacturing team, you will be responsible for coordinating shipments and pickups, ensuring compliance with trade agreements, supporting logistics, managing inventory, and reviewing and negotiating courier charges.

This is an onsite role, where you can engage in in-person collaboration at our Ottawa, ON office.

This role is a temporary position projected to last until June 2025.

What You'll Do

- Arrange transportation for all outgoing shipments, coordinating pickup and delivery.
- Prepare shipping documentation for all outgoing shipments.
- Ensure compliance with current trade agreements.
- Work closely with Order Management to ensure we are meeting our customers' logistic requirements.
- Provide logistical support to our internal customers.
- Update ERP, logistics and shipping systems as required.
- Review/approve freight charges from our couriers.
- Work with our couriers to ensure we are being provided with the best pricing possible.
- Ensuring by physical counting the receipt of such goods and the storage in the right area.
- Picking inventory for shipments.
- Maintain inventory accuracy through cycle count program.
- Perform basic material handling activities: unloading trucks, receiving parts, material movements, order fulfillment, cycle counts and inventory error investigation.

Who You Are

You're a strategic thinker with a knack for operational excellence, ready to tackle multiple priorities with agility and grace. If you have:

- Over 5 years of experience in international shipping.
- Proficient in JDE ERP System.
- Post-secondary education in a related field.

- Knowledgeable in all modes of transport (courier, ocean, air, and ground).
- Preferred certifications in Logistics/Trade Compliance or Hazardous Handling/Shipping.
- Capable of multitasking and working independently in a fast-paced environment.
- Customer service-oriented.
- Strong team player.
- Proficient in computer operation and MS programs.

To apply, please visit: <https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/4109216061>

* Logistics Coordinator, Cascades, Schenectady, NY

At Cascades in Schenectady, NY you can develop your full potential, sustainably, by applying your expertise within the Containerboard Packaging Division of our team as the Logistics Supervisor:

- Coordinate and manage daily shipping activities to meet delivery schedules and optimize trailer/transport loading.
- Supervise shipping and receiving employees to ensure efficient warehouse operations and inventory accuracy.
- Implement and monitor health and safety processes and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for logistics activities.
- Communicate proactively with Customer Service on production timelines and resolve potential delays in real time.
- Oversee the external warehouse management strategy and implement cyclical counting processes based on business rules.

Bring out the best in yourself! Every day, our colleagues choose to respect their true nature by contributing with passion to our mission.

You too, put forward your strengths:

- Proven experience in logistics or warehouse supervision and a solid understanding of logistics processes.
- Strong leadership skills to inspire a collaborative team environment and promote safety and operational excellence.
- Excellent communication skills to ensure smooth coordination between departments and proactive problem-solving abilities.

- Demonstrated sense of responsibility, autonomy, and an ethical approach to your work.

To apply for this job, please visit:

<https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/4107120867>



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