

U.S. Port Entry Fees Update – 1-Year Suspension



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Executive Summary

Further to our circular issued in June 2025 regarding the U.S. port entry fees applicable to vessels built in China, as well as to Chinese vessel operators and owners, the U.S. Government has now confirmed that these fees have been suspended for a period of one year. The suspension took effect on November 10, 2025, and is currently scheduled to remain in place until November 9, 2026.

What This Suspension Means For Operators

The suspension is part of a package of agreements between the United States and China to resolve, at least in part, the trade dispute that has been unfolding since early 2025. The suspension began at 12:01 a.m. on November 10, 2025, and will last until midnight on November 9, 2026, so for any vessel arriving at a U.S. port on or after November 10, 2025, the previously announced port entry fees will not apply. Vessel operators will be able to proceed as they did prior to the introduction of the fee regime earlier this year.

For U.S. entries made before November 10, 2025, the fees will still apply. Current guidance does not indicate that the U.S. government will refund fees paid before the suspension was announced, or fees paid between the announcement and the start of the suspension on November 10, 2025. Nonetheless, operators may wish to monitor developments in case refund guidance changes.

Next Steps

As you know, the situation has been highly dynamic, but we now have firm regulatory clarity for the next 12 months. SIGCo's approach has always been to provide guidance grounded in binding regulation rather than on press statements or proposed notices, ensuring stability, accuracy, and credibility for our clients. SIGCo will continue to monitor U.S. regulatory updates closely.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss how this update may impact your fleet's trading patterns or documentation, please reach out to us at sigco@sigcogroup.com or +1-441-298-0600.

Sincerely,
SIGCo Group

Dated: November 12, 2025