



BERRY & DONALDSON

NEWS UPDATE

Chinese New Year Early in 2014

Although it may seem to be rather early to be mentioning Chinese New Year, such is the impact of this annual holiday in the People's Republic of China on international trade, that we feel we should highlight the fact that, not only is it looming but it is arriving earlier than normal.



In 2014, the Chinese New Year will be from 30 January to 5 February. Many factories actually close a day or two before the commencement of official festivities.

Bearing in mind that production and logistics activities all but come to a halt during this period, it is important that those who are sourcing supplies from China make provision for this cessation in their planning. As just said, not only does production come to a halt, but the effect that the holiday has on vessel voyages from the Far East lasts for several weeks to a month at discharge ports in South Africa.

Chinese New Year celebrations traditionally ran from Chinese New Year's Eve, the last day of the last month of the Chinese calendar to the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the first month, making the festival the longest in the Chinese calendar (not to be confused with the Gregorian calendar to which business subscribe). The holiday is not only observed in China but also in countries in which large Chinese populations reside.

So, importers should be mindful of this interruption in supplies and supply chains in their planning for any orders and freighting thereof during this period.