

Announcement of the Ministry of Transport of PRC on Imposing Special Port Fees on US Vessels

On April 17, 2025, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced measures following its Section 301 investigation into China's maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors. From October 14, 2025, the U.S. will impose additional port service fees on vessels owned or operated by Chinese enterprises, vessels flying the Chinese flag, and vessels built in China. These measures seriously violate international trade principles and the Shipping agreement between the U.S. and China, causing significant disruption to maritime trade between the two countries.

In accordance with the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on International Maritime Transportation and other relevant laws and regulations, as well as the basic principles of international law, and approved by the State Council, Special Port Fees shall be collected on the following categories of vessels calling at Chinese ports, effective from October 14, 2025. The maritime administrative authorities at the ports of call shall be responsible for collection:

1. Vessels owned by US enterprises, other organizations, or individuals;
2. Vessels operated by US enterprises, other organizations, or individuals;
3. Vessels owned or operated by enterprises or other organizations in which US enterprises, other organizations, or individuals directly or indirectly hold at least 25% of equity (including voting rights or board seats);
4. Vessels flying the flag of the United States;
5. Vessels built in the United States.

The relevant matters are announced as follows:

I. Collection Standard

The Special Port Fees shall be collected on the mentioned vessels above on a per-voyage basis and implemented in phases according to the following standards (any fraction of one net ton shall be counted as one net ton):

- a) For vessels calling at Chinese ports from October 14, 2025: RMB 400 per net ton.
- b) For vessels calling at Chinese ports from April 17, 2026: RMB 640 per net ton.
- c) For vessels calling at Chinese ports from April 17, 2027: RMB 880 per net ton.
- d) For vessels calling at Chinese ports from April 17, 2028: RMB 1,120 per net ton.

II. Collection Rules

If a vessel calls at multiple Chinese ports during the same voyage, the Special Port Fees shall be paid only at the first port of call and will not be collected at subsequent ports in that voyage. For the same vessel, the Special Port Fees shall be collected for a maximum of five voyages per calendar year.

III. Implementation

The Ministry of Transport will formulate specific implementation measures.

Official source from Ministry of Transport of PRC:

https://xxgk.mot.gov.cn/2020/jigou/syj/202510/t20251010_4177939.html