



Friday, 28 May 2021

Dear Valued Customer,

### Freight Cost Surcharge

I am sure you will be aware of the ongoing issue of the huge spike in freight rates for goods shipped from overseas.

We are currently paying nearer \$10,000 for a 40" container from the Far East, when for many years it has been around \$1500.

We had hoped, and were advised, that the rates would come down after Chinese New Year once the shipping companies sorted their issues around supply and capacity. This hasn't happened though and now the advice is that the high rates may last until the end of the year.

<https://www.export.org.uk/news/562101/Monstrous-rates-for-freight-continue-to-rise-due-to-Covid-19-Brexit-and-the-Suez-Canal-blockage.htm>

We have been absorbing this cost for many months but cannot now afford to keep this going.

It is therefore with regret that we need to apply a 2% Freight Surcharge onto all items manufactured offshore, from July 1st. This will be listed as a separate item on affected invoices.

As soon as rates return or improve markedly we will of course remove the surcharge.

Of course our School ties which are made proudly here in the UK are not affected.

May I take this opportunity to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to make this back- to-school as successful as possible.

Kind regards,

**Andy Smith**  
Sales Director