

April 8, 2026

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Digitalization is now a competitive differentiator for global shipping. The pace of adoption in 2026 will define industry leadership, customer trust, and operational resilience. On behalf of thousands of your customers worldwide, we commend the progress achieved in 2025 and urge decisive action on priorities that will deliver measurable business impact.

2026 Strategic Priorities

1. Implement Arrival Notice, Booking, and VGM standards

These standards reduce cost and complexity in customer processes. Full implementation in 2026 will unlock efficiency gains and strengthen customer confidence.

2. Ensure reliable Cut-off Dates through terminal collaboration

Harmonizing ERD, Documentation Cut-off, and LFD is critical to reducing missed sailings, avoiding excess storage costs, and improving planning accuracy. This requires carrier leadership and DCSA coordination with terminals.

3. Complete Schedule standards implementation across all carriers

Most carriers have adopted these standards—swift completion by remaining carriers is essential to deliver consistency and predictability.

4. Increase transparency and conformance in IT planning

Enhance the Conformance Tracker by adding timelines for upcoming implementations. Visibility into future plans enables customers to integrate efficiently and reduces friction.

5. Expand structured stakeholder engagement through DCSA+

The DCSA+ Partnership Program is a pivotal step toward inclusive collaboration. Active port and terminal participation will accelerate innovation and adoption across the ecosystem.

Why This Matters

The next 12 months represent a decisive window. Without accelerated adoption, inefficiencies will persist, eroding customer confidence and increasing costs. Standardizing terminal-managed milestones and digital processes will minimize disruptions, reduce storage costs, and enable better planning for all stakeholders.

Your leadership in 2026 will set the benchmark for digital excellence and shape the future of global container shipping. We stand ready to support this transformation through pilot participation, data feedback, and outreach.

Respectfully,



Gabriel Rodriguez

CC: Thomas Bagge, CEO, DCSA

A Customs Brokerage, Inc.
Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)
AMCOT
American Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA)
Anheuser-Busch InBev
BOSSCO Trading
C.H. Powell Company
California Automotive Wholesalers' Association (CAWA - Representing the Automotive Parts Industry)
Florida Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association, Inc. (FCBF)
Glencore
Global Customs Brokers LLC
HCS International
Houston Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders (HCBFFA)
IKEA Supply AG
Imperial Freight Brokers
International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA)
INTRAL Corporation
Louis Dreyfus Company
Meat Import Council of America (MICA)
National Cotton Council
National Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA)
National Industrial Transportation League (NITL)
National Retail Federation (NRF)
New York/New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders & Brokers Association, Inc. (NYNJFF&BA)
Northwest Seaport Alliance
Port Houston
Port NOLA
Port of Los Angeles

Tesla

United States Sweet Potato Council

USA Rice Federation

Wildcat Logistics