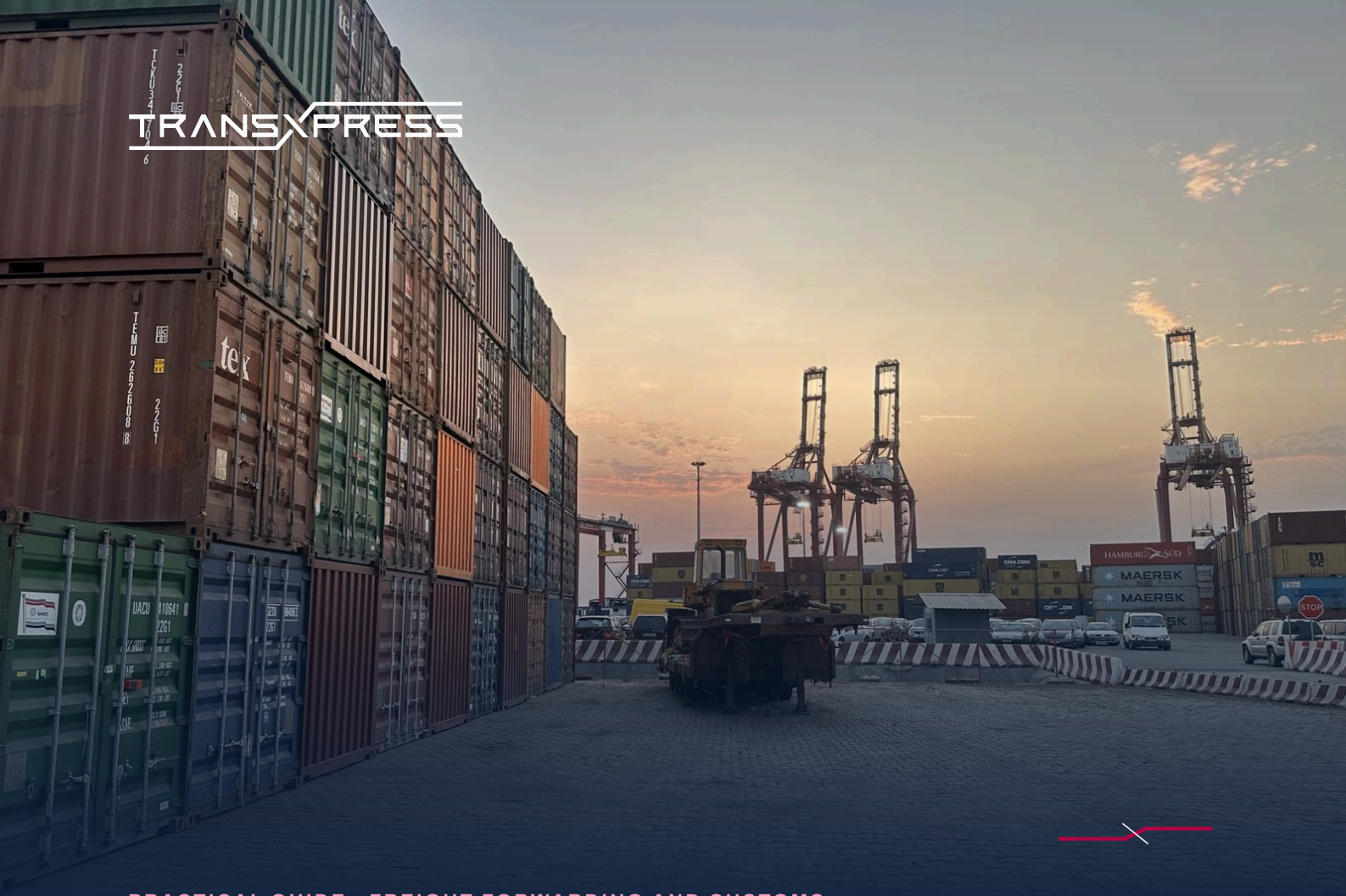


PRACTICAL GUIDE · FREIGHT FORWARDING AND CUSTOMS

Demurrage, detention and storage at the port of Conakry: understand and avoid the charges

On an import file, the charges that surprise most are rarely customs duties: they are the extra days. Demurrage, detention and storage add up every day beyond the free period, and across several containers the bill climbs fast. Here is how they are calculated and how to avoid them.

CONTENTS

01 Three charges, three creditors
02 How free time is counted
03 Why days pile up
04 Steps that avoid these charges
05 Checking a demurrage invoice
06 What we do for you

01 Three charges, three creditors

- Demurrage: charged by the shipping line when the full container stays in the port beyond the free time.
- Detention: charged by the shipping line when the container, once out of the port, is not returned empty within the agreed time.
- Storage: charged by the terminal or the port for keeping the goods or the container after the free period.

> Depending on the line, demurrage and detention are counted separately or combined into a single free time. Read your line's terms before arrival.

02 How free time is counted

Free time is a number of days at no charge, set by the shipping line or the terminal and sometimes negotiated at booking. It usually starts when the vessel discharges. After that, each day is charged on a scale that often rises in steps.

The calculation is simple: days beyond the free time, multiplied by the daily rate for that period. Always check the discharge, gate-out and empty return dates on the invoice.

03 Why days pile up

- Documents arriving after the vessel: the declaration cannot go in.
- A disputed description, weight or value that sends the file for in-depth inspection.
- Late payment of duties, which delays the release order.
- No truck available on the day everything is ready.

© 2026 TRANSXPRESS SARL · Protected document, no reproduction without written permission

- Empty return delayed by unloading on site.

04 Steps that avoid these charges

1. Negotiate suitable free time when booking the freight, especially for a remote site.
2. Send the documents to your customs broker before the vessel arrives.
3. Arrange funding for duties and taxes before discharge.
4. Book transport at the same time as the declaration.
5. Organise fast unloading on site and the empty return, or unstuff at the port if the site is far.

05 Checking a demurrage invoice

Compare the invoice with the actual dates: vessel arrival and discharge, container gate-out, empty return. Check the free time applied and the scale. A wrong date or free time can be disputed with the shipping line, with supporting documents, ideally before payment.

06 What we do for you

TransXpress tracks the free-time end date of every container, prepares the file before arrival and checks shipping line and terminal invoices before paying them. These charges are re-invoiced to you at actual cost, with their receipts.

? Frequently asked questions

What is the difference between demurrage and detention?

Demurrage runs while the full container stays in the port; detention runs after it leaves, until the empty container is returned to the shipping line.

Is storage paid to the shipping line?

No, storage is charged by the terminal or the port, on top of any demurrage from the shipping line.

Can free time be negotiated?

Often yes, when booking the freight, especially for regular volumes or remote sites.

General information guide written by TransXpress. Customs rules and procedures change: every file is checked against the documents and the regulations in force. This guide is neither a quotation nor a commitment.

© 2026 TRANSXPRESS SARL · Protected document, no reproduction without written permission

TRANSXPRESS

ONE POINT OF CONTACT, FROM THE PORT TO YOUR SITE

Procurement, freight forwarding and customs, heavy transport and equipment rental in Guinea.

TransXpress supports mining, industrial and construction operators in Guinea and on the corridors to Mali and Sierra Leone. A name, a number and a few words are enough: we call you back within 24 business hours.

QUOTE

transxpress.co/#devis

WHATSAPP

+224 610 36 36 52

EMAIL

info@transxpress.co

OFFICE

Résidence Micheline, Camayenne, Dixinn, Conakry

© 2026 TRANSXPRESS SARL, RCCM GN.TCC.2022.B.01359. All rights reserved. This document is protected by copyright: any reproduction, distribution or adaptation, in whole or in part, without the written permission of TRANSXPRESS SARL is prohibited. Online version: transxpress.co/en/guides/surestaries-detention-magasinage-conakry/