

Voluntary Pricing Protocol

Empty Container Park operators



Department
of Transport
and Planning

This Voluntary Pricing Protocol aims to improve the notice period and transparency to industry of access price changes at empty container parks (ECPs).

This Voluntary Pricing Protocol – ECP Operators should be considered for all landside price changes at Victorian ECPs from the time of publication.

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) requests empty container park operators and their system providers voluntarily adopt the following guidelines for all landside price changes.

Guidelines for ECP Operators

1. ECPs are requested to implement pricing changes no more than once per annum on 1 January¹ (or next business day, the “Implementation Date”).
2. ECPs should notify industry of proposed pricing changes 60 calendar days prior to the proposed Implementation Date (“Initial Notice”).
 - o Initial Notices to industry should include:
 - Details of the price change, including:
 - a. The proposed date new prices come into effect (Implementation Date).
 - b. Specification of the current and proposed price, and the % change.
 - c. The date that the charge was last modified.
 - Detailed reasons for the price changes, including any supporting information or data.
 - For price changes related to capital investment at the ECP, including equipment and machinery, or investment in systems, processes or operational arrangements, details of:
 - a. the expected benefits of the investment
 - b. the current (i.e., a minimum 12-months, where available) Service Performance
 - c. projected improvements to Service Performance
 - d. the Beneficiaries of the investment, and
 - e. the period over which improvements are expected to be realised.
 - Where a price change occurs less than 12 months after the prior price change, e.g. for a new facility or ECPs transitioning to 1 January, confirmation that no over-recovery has occurred because of the timing change.



- For notices related to temporary ECP facilities, the dates the facility is expected to be operational.
 - Contact details for industry to submit feedback or queries in response to the notice and the due date for feedback.
3. ECPs must notify DTP of the proposed pricing changes 60 calendar days prior to the proposed Implementation Date. Initial Notices to DTP should be sent to freightvictoria@transport.vic.gov.au and should include:
- A copy of the Initial Notice to industry reflecting the date that the notice was sent.
 - Any additional supporting information for the price change to be kept confidential by DTP, for example, detailed financial data or sensitive information supporting the change.
 - A copy of the full landside fees rate sheet applicable to transport operators accessing the ECP site(s) which demonstrates the current and proposed fees and percentage increase to be applied.
 - ECPs are encouraged to provide historical information on pricing changes for the Notification Fee since it was introduced when submitting their first notice under this Protocol.
 - Information on historic price changes should include the date the Notification Fee was first introduced and the fee amount, and the date and amount of all subsequent Notification Fee changes since.
4. DTP and industry have 14 calendar days from the Initial Notice to provide formal, written feedback direct to the relevant ECP on the proposed pricing change.
5. ECPs must issue a Final Notice of the pricing change to Industry and DTP 30 calendar days prior to the proposed Implementation Date.
- The Final Notice must include:
 - A summary of engagement themes received in writing from industry and DTP.
 - Any response from the ECP in respect to the feedback received.
 - Details of the price change(s), including:
 - a. The proposed date new prices come into effect (Implementation Date).
 - b. Specification of the current and proposed price, and the % change.
 - c. The date that the charge was last modified.
 - d. Any adjustments to prices made following industry/DTP feedback.

Guidelines for ECP Notification System Providers

6. ECP Notification System Providers are requested to facilitate this Voluntary Pricing Protocol by:

- Working with ECP customers to provide functionality of systems in relation to price changes which encourages and/or otherwise supports minimum notification periods for price changes to industry; and
- Establishing prompts within systems to alert ECPs to consider this Voluntary Pricing Protocol when activating price changes.

DTP will periodically review the alignment of ECP pricing notices with this Protocol and publish or otherwise communicate findings to industry.

Definitions under the Voluntary Pricing Protocol for ECP operators:

System Providers	System providers for ECP notification/booking system management e.g., Cargowise VBS, OneStop Modal.
Access price change(s)	Includes adjustment(s) to existing landside charges and/or introduction of new landside charges levied on transport operators in relation to the hire and dehire of empty containers at an ECP, and should be read as singular or multiple, as applicable.
Empty container park(s)	Includes standalone empty container park facilities and integrated facilities (e.g., within intermodal terminals or container stevedore terminals), whether ongoing or temporary in nature.
Service Performance	Service performance may include, for example, truck turn time, yard capacity, truck arrival time, lifts per hour, etc., as related to the investment.
Beneficiaries	<p>The stakeholder(s) who derive value from the investment at the ECP, including for example, transport operators, shipping lines, logistics providers, intermediaries, cargo owners, and the ECP operator.</p> <p>Benefits may include increased efficiency, reduced costs, improved service levels, and enhanced operational capacity.</p>

Note: For new empty container park facilities, whether temporary or ongoing in nature, the Implementation Date shall be the date of commencing operations.