

HOW TO PLAN SMARTLY FOR **CHINESE NEW YEAR** LOGISTICS?

2026

INTRODUCTION

The Chinese New Year (CNY) is the most important traditional festival in China, focused on family reunions. This leads to a "travel rush" where workers return to their hometowns, causing a massive labor shortage in manufacturing and transportation.

This holiday remains the most significant annual disruptor to global supply chains.

For 2026, the official holiday runs from February 15 to February 23. However, the ripple effects on labor, production, and shipping capacity begin weeks prior and persist well after the official dates.

CHINESE NEW YEAR'S IMPACT ON FACTORIES

Factories, particularly small and medium ones, often close earlier and reopen later than the official holiday.



01 — Small & Medium Factories:

Production suspension typically occurs from February 6 to February 25.



02 — Large-Scale Factories:

Suspensions are expected from February 13 to February 25.



Strategic Booking Deadline

To ensure cargo is loaded by February 10, all bookings must be finalized by January 20 (three weeks prior).

CHINESE NEW YEAR'S IMPACT ON TRUCKING

Tight Trucking Capacity

A mass exodus of drivers for family reunions leads to a severe "tight capacity" of trucks, directly resulting in increased domestic transportation costs.

Increased Transportation Costs

Demand for trucks exceeds available capacity, resulting in higher transportation costs.



CHINESE NEW YEAR'S IMPACT ON SHIPPING LINES & PORTS

Carrier Blank Sailings

Major alliances have already announced significant capacity withdrawals to manage the holiday lull.

- MSC: Canceled sailings across Asia-Europe, Mediterranean, and U.S. trade lanes.
- Maersk: 16 Gemini network sailings have been officially canceled.

The "Rolled Cargo" Phenomenon

Carrier overbooking frequently results in cargo being "rolled" to subsequent vessels, which can cause immediate delays of at least two weeks.

Cost Volatility

High General Rate Increases (GRI) and potential Container Yard (CY) storage charges for early stuffing are expected.

PRACTICAL LOGISTICS PLANNING SUGGESTIONS

To mitigate the risks outlined above, we recommend the following procedure for you to better navigate the Chinese New Year logistics:

- The 3-Week Buffer Rule: Secure all bookings 2-3 weeks prior to the Cargo Ready Date.
- Buyer's Consolidation: For clients with multiple suppliers, consolidate LCL shipments into FCL at the port of origin (e.g., Shenzhen or Ningbo) to reduce handling touchpoints and costs.
- Post-CNY Pre-Booking: Do not wait for factories to reopen to book March shipments. Capacity for early March is usually filled by late January.
- Digital Visibility Integration: Utilize real-time tracking to monitor the "uncertain transit" period between factory gates and port loading.

WHY PARTNER WITH A PROFESSIONAL CHINESE FREIGHT FORWARDER?

01 — Mitigation of Peak Season Risks

Experienced forwarders have established relationships with carriers to secure space even when "blank sailings" (cancelled trips) and cargo rollovers are frequent.

Plus, they maintain a network of reliable trucking partners to ensure your goods reach the port before the "travel rush" causes a driver shortage.

02 — Tailored Professional Solutions

Professional forwarders help you establish a "buffer time" in your schedule, advising exactly when to book to avoid the most volatile General Rate Increases

03 — Real-Time Visibility & Communication

Having a team "on the ground" in China allows for immediate problem-solving if local port congestion or documentation issues arise during the holiday period.

OUR SUCCESS STORY: SURGE IN PV MATERIALS SHIPPING DURING CHINESE NEW YEAR

China's photovoltaic (PV) products support global renewable energy expansion, making this sector critical for both domestic and international markets.

On April 1, 2026, China will cancel of VAT export tax rebates for PV products. This policy adjustment created immediate logistical implications for exporters.

The announcement triggered a surge in shipments, particularly in the lead-up to Chinese New Year.



OUR SUCCESS STORY: THE CHALLENGES

In this case, the shipment was exceptionally complex due to several factors:

- Diverse Cargo Types: The project required moving dry containers, 20' High Cube (HQ) containers, breakbulk cargo, and dangerous goods (lithium batteries).
- Regulatory Pressure: The Chinese government announced the cancellation of VAT rebates for PV products effective April 1st, causing factories to rush shipments to meet the deadline.
- Logistical Complexity: The client required Buyer's Consolidation from three major Chinese ports: Shenzhen, Ningbo, and Shanghai.



OUR SUCCESS STORY: THE SOLUTIONS

The success of this project relied on **Buyer's Consolidation**, which allowed the importer to combine smaller orders from different regions into a single, managed supply chain, significantly reducing costs and increasing control during the high-risk CNY period.

To manage these difficulties, YQN Logistics broke the service line into three specific segments:

- **Space Security:** We immediately secured vessel space across multiple different carriers. This ensured that if one carrier announced a "blank sailing," the entire project wouldn't be paralyzed.
- **Specialized SOP:** We developed a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) with a strict timeline and dedicated coordinators to manage the numerous operational details.
- **Operational Consolidation:** We managed the "cargo flow in-house," which included:
 - Warehouse operations (packing, picking, and stuffing).
 - Handling certification of origin and commodity inspections.
 - Guaranteeing space protection during the peak rush.

SHIPPING FROM CHINA?

CONTACT US.



YQN at China International Import Expo 2025



YQN at JCTrans Global Freight Forwarders Conference

We will be attending **The 21st JCTrans Global Freight Forwarders Conference** in Thailand and **Intermodal South America** in Brazil, April 2026.

We look forward to seeing you there!