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**Hurricanes causing supply chain chaos across U.S.** (From American Shipper)

The aftermath of Hurricane Harvey coupled with Hurricane Irma slowly approaching the U.S. East Coast is wreaking havoc on supply chains, sending trucking costs through the roof...

In the wake of Harvey's destruction, big rigs are getting diverted to the Texas recovery effort, and businesses and aid groups are hustling to restock store shelves and bring in supplies, according to a report from the *Wall Street Journal*. This makes it challenging for trucks to find loads in Houston for the return trip because so many businesses that export to other parts of the country remain closed.

In addition, many shippers are paying much higher rates to bring goods into the region. "Trucking companies are charging more because making deliveries in Houston is slow going and potentially costly as the city rebounds from the storm," the *WSJ* said...

The cost of hiring a tractor-trailer to transport freight from Dallas to Houston rose 66 percent for the week ending Sept. 2, compared to the week prior... Overall, Harvey has impacted freight markets beyond Texas... Cargo has been rerouted to other distribution hubs, while relief efforts have diverted trucking capacity from other regions.

Nationally, the average rate for dry vans for the week ending Sept. 2 stood at \$1.90 per mile, including fuel surcharges, a 6 percent increase from the previous week...

...Meanwhile, Irma, which is currently a Category 5 hurricane in the Caribbean, could reach South Florida this weekend.

Ed. Note: You should expect significantly increased trucking costs and fuel surcharges for the next several months. For more info, please go to

<http://www.americanshipper.com/main/asd/hurricanes-causing-supply-chain-chaos-in-us-southeast-68921.aspx>

**FDA begins inspections under FSVP** (From Registrar Corp)

Food importers have begun receiving notices from FDA with the email subject line: "FSVP Inspection Requirements, Handouts & Law." This email is a notification that FDA intends to inspect the importer for compliance with new requirements under FDA's Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) rule.

The FSVP rule requires importers to:

- Designate a "Qualified Individual" to develop a FSVP for each food imported from each supplier.
- Monitor their foreign suppliers' FDA compliance.

According to Sharon Mayl at FDA, FSVP inspections are not to be confused with traditional food facility inspections and are largely based on the review of records. The inspector may also look for evidence that FSVP procedures are followed between importer and supplier for the food items in question and that the importer is documenting appropriate analyses and verification activities. Ms. Mayl expressed that most FSVP inspections will take place at the importer's place of business. For more info, please go to

<https://www.fda.gov/food/guidanceregulation/fsma/ucm560689.htm>

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