



**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
for DCSA Track and Track Publication**

March 2020

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>GENERAL QUESTIONS</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1	How can someone join or become a part of DCSA?	4
1.2	Will other types of companies (e.g. freight forwarders) be able to join DCSA?	4
1.3	What is DCSA's roadmap over the coming year?	4
1.4	Does DCSA have plans to engage other types of standards organisations to continue language harmonization across other modes of transport (road/rail)?	4
1.5	Some shipping lines are looking to invest now in IoT technology. Having an agreed-upon communications platform standard (cellular, Bluetooth, etc.) would be important. How soon will you release that stream?	4
1.6	Does DCSA aim to have a role in the container shipping industry similar to IATA's in the travel industry?	4
1.7	Are there any plans to bring GSBN into the fold?	4
1.8	Does participation from TradeLens mean that all information provided from TradeLens is expected to be compliant with the data model? And if so, by when?	4
1.9	How are you handling confidentiality and security as it relates to private information?	5
<b>2</b>	<b>TRACK &amp; TRACE STANDARD</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1	Has any member carrier given you a target date for supporting the DCSA T&T standards?	6
2.2	Will DCSA consider operating a data hub to facilitate data exchange? If not, is there a potential for thousands of separate integrations using this common standard?	6
2.3	GS1 has also been developing standards for transportation and logistics. Why haven't they been part of this initiative?	6
2.4	In the DCSA Interface Standard for Track & Trace document, there is a list of track and trace events (section 4.10). It does not cover all possible event combinations, for example, there is no Inland Terminal. Is the current list only a high-level list or should it be considered the master list?	6
2.5	Is there a plan in place to combine your system with real-time tracking and monitoring of cargo?	6
2.6	Load and Discharge are the events associated with a Vessel. Are these also applicable to Rail, i.e. Load Rail is equivalent to On-rail and Discharge Rail is equivalent to Off-rail?	6
2.7	Is T&T similar to blockchain technology from Tradelens-IBM?	6

- 2.8 Many shipping lines provide the date until container pickup but not until empty return. Only registered users on the shipping line website can see the data. In this case will you provide the data until empty return? 7**
- 2.9 Will you also look into sailing schedules (the matter is closely related to vessel tracking in a way)? 7**
- 2.10 As a Terminal Operator - have TOS (Terminal Operating System) Providers approached you, or should we look to implement our own (Terminal to Shipper) platform as per the future standards? 7**
- 3 TRACK & TRACE API 8**
- 3.1 How can members extend the standards to cater to their specific needs, e.g. extending an API to track, say, air cargo? 8**
- 3.2 Will you develop an API test suite to test member API compliance with DCSA standards? 8**
- 3.3 Will your smallest “unit of measure” be the container level, or will you go smaller, to the level of a PO for example? 8**
- 3.4 Is there a timeframe for publishing API standards on subscription/reverse API/Webhooks? 8**

## 1 GENERAL QUESTIONS

### 1.1 How can someone join or become a part of DCSA?

Depending on what is meant by joining, there are two options:

- We have setup a reference group. Please feel free to submit your details through [media@DCSA.org](mailto:media@DCSA.org) to join the reference group.
- We are hiring talent to join our team. Please see our '[Career](#)' section to get in touch.

### 1.2 Will other types of companies (e.g. freight forwarders) be able to join DCSA?

At this point in time, the members of DCSA are only carriers/shipping lines. However, we truly value the feedback from other industry stakeholders as well. We are therefore happy for other stakeholders to [join the reference user group](#) in order to properly address their feedback.

### 1.3 What is DCSA's roadmap over the coming year?

We are currently assessing how to best present (and publish) upcoming initiatives. So please stay tuned for now.

### 1.4 Does DCSA have plans to engage other types of standards organisations to continue language harmonization across other modes of transport (road/rail)?

We are indeed aligning with multiple other standardisation entities. We strongly believe we can learn and leverage our collaborations with them.

### 1.5 Some shipping lines are looking to invest now in IoT technology. Having an agreed-upon communications platform standard (cellular, Bluetooth, etc.) would be important. How soon will you release that stream?

Actually, we are working on it as we speak. We understand the importance of this, and together with our members are defining the industry standards for it. The first release is expected in Q2 2020. Stay tuned!

### 1.6 Does DCSA aim to have a role in the container shipping industry similar to IATA's in the travel industry?

We are inspired by IATA and learn much from them. They have a long history, so it is very ambitious to have that as our aim. We do follow them closely and meet with them when possible.

### 1.7 Are there any plans to bring GSBN into the fold?

We are open and interested in connecting with other companies in the shipping industry.

### 1.8 Does participation from TradeLens mean that all information provided from TradeLens is expected to be compliant with the data model? And if so, by when?

TradeLens plans to support our efforts with regard to interoperability and standards. It is up to stakeholders such as TradeLens to determine when and how to comply with our standards, as well as when and how to communicate about it.

**1.9 How are you handling confidentiality and security as it relates to private information?**

Everything we publish is opensource, and therefore, public. When it comes to real data, owned by the carriers, it is the carrier's responsibility to secure that data. DCSA does share our recommendations with members on this topic.

## 2 TRACK & TRACE STANDARD

### 2.1 Has any member carrier given you a target date for supporting the DCSA T&T standards?

All of our carriers are committed to implementing our standards. Member compliancy timelines can be shared by them.

### 2.2 Will DCSA consider operating a data hub to facilitate data exchange? If not, is there a potential for thousands of separate integrations using this common standard?

This currently does not have our focus. Our focus now is defining industry standards, which should already improve the exchange of (and limit the number of) messages.

### 2.3 GS1 has also been developing standards for transportation and logistics. Why haven't they been part of this initiative?

We looked into GS1, and although GS1 was included in the Baseline Catalogue based on the possibilities of the Global Location Number and Global Trade Item Number, we use a UN/LOCODE-based location identifier (UN Location Code, BIC Location Code and SMDG Terminal Code).

### 2.4 In the DCSA Interface Standard for Track & Trace document, there is a list of track and trace events (section 4.10). It does not cover all possible event combinations, for example, there is no Inland Terminal. Is the current list only a high-level list or should it be considered the master list?

This is not an exhaustive list of events. Page 6 of the reading guide shows an example from the transportation journey - using inland terminal as an example.

### 2.5 Is there a plan in place to combine your system with real-time tracking and monitoring of cargo?

Real time tracking and monitoring requires additional standards and innovations such as IoT. IoT is actually an important topic in our industry. The DCSA is therefore also working on industry standards for IoT to cater to such use cases.

### 2.6 Load and Discharge are the events associated with a Vessel. Are these also applicable to Rail, i.e. Load Rail is equivalent to On-rail and Discharge Rail is equivalent to Off-rail?

These event types can indeed be associated with the specific transportation mode. These events are indeed also applicable to Rail. Please see section 4.10 of the T&T interface standard document. Here you will find a list of T&T events., The event rules take into account what combinations of parameter values are logical and disallow ones that do not make sense.

### 2.7 Is T&T similar to blockchain technology from Tradelens-IBM?

DCSA provides industry standards in order to support interoperability. Our standards are not only relevant to our members, they are available for all parties involved in the industry.

**2.8 Many shipping lines provide the date until container pickup but not until empty return. Only registered users on the shipping line website can see the data. In this case will you provide the data until empty return?**

The API definition includes gate-in event empty. The T&T API data, if available, will only be shared with authenticated and authorized users.

**2.9 Will you also look into sailing schedules (the matter is closely related to vessel tracking in a way)?**

Vessel schedules is clearly an important topic for the industry. Actually, one of our workstreams is looking into that topic. Please bear with us but stay tuned to hear more about it in the near future.

**2.10 As a Terminal Operator - have TOS (Terminal Operating System) Providers approached you, or should we look to implement our own (Terminal to Shipper) platform as per the future standards?**

Our T&T interface definition doesn't yet cover the supply side (ports, terminals, etc.). We do see the importance of incorporating this and have it on our roadmap to investigate and, where possible, to define standardizations.

### **3 TRACK & TRACE API**

#### **3.1 How can members extend the standards to cater to their specific needs, e.g. extending an API to track, say, air cargo?**

From a standardization perspective it makes the most sense for carriers to stick to the agreed standards. The DCSA in collaboration with its members will most likely extend the T&T definitions to cater to specific data sharing needs or create additional API definitions.

#### **3.2 Will you develop an API test suite to test member API compliance with DCSA standards?**

It is indeed in our backlog to create a mock-up the API-to-test data request.

#### **3.3 Will your smallest “unit of measure” be the container level, or will you go smaller, to the level of a PO for example?**

The container level is indeed the smallest unit of measure.

#### **3.4 Is there a timeframe for publishing API standards on subscription/reverse API/Webhooks?**

We are currently working on a definition for a subscription model. Expectations are to publish this update early Q2 2020.