



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

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## 1 TRACK & TRACE STANDARD

### 1.1 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.

### 1.2 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.

### 1.3 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).

### 1.4 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.

### 1.5 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.

### 1.6 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.

### 1.7 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.

**1.8 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.

**1.9 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.

**1.10 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.

## **2 TRACK & TRACE API**

### **2.1 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.

### **2.2 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.

### **2.3 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.

### **2.4 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.