



DCSA standards-based Track & Trace API

Making containers more visible and shipping more reliable

Top 3 ways our DCSA standards-based Track & Trace (T&T) API can make your life easier:

1

Enables system interoperability across the end-to-end supply chain

2

Enables automated, real-time and efficient data exchange between supply chain participants

3

Ensures data from all parties that have adopted the DCSA standards is harmonised across terminology, processes and event definitions

It's all about the data

A lack of visibility into container whereabouts is characteristic in container shipping and creates unexpected delays for shippers. This makes supply chains unreliable, which has a direct impact on business performance.

The problem is a lack of data. For functions like track and trace, data isn't yet aligned or digitalised across carriers and their logistics partners, so it can't travel freely across the end-to-end supply chain. As a result, the status of a shipment can't be communicated in a timely fashion between stakeholders, which means the data they do receive is often inaccurate, which prevents optimisation of transportation flows.

Visibility Reliability Innovation



Through cross-carrier collaboration, DCSA and its members are creating a framework for seamless, real-time access to standardised data.



The DCSA Track & Trace Standard

In collaboration with its members and other industry stakeholders, DCSA has developed a standard with API (application programming interface) definitions for T&T data. By implementing the DCSA API, customers of container shipping and supply chain participants can get automated, real-time access to digital shipment data from carriers that have adopted the standard.

The DCSA T&T standard is freely available to download from the DCSA web site, <https://dcsa.org>. The API definitions can be downloaded from [SwaggerHub](#), and a reference implementation is available on [GitHub](#).

Please check out <https://dcsa.org/adopt/> for more information on how to adopt the standards and self-verify your implementation.

Better data through standards

Making better data more available requires standards such as those DCSA (Digital Container Shipping Association) and its members are developing. These standards establish common definitions and frameworks for digitalising data and common protocols for communicating it.

Without standardisation, any data that is available may be unusable or incomprehensible to other systems, which means it can't flow seamlessly across the container journey. In contrast, widespread adoption of DCSA standards will establish a foundation for every adopter to have seamless, real-time access to data. This will enable the industry to move forward towards greater visibility and more innovative, reliable services.