

## What is 'Operation Stack'?

'Operation Stack' is the name given to the traffic management plan used by Suffolk Police when, as a result of restrictions at the Port of Felixstowe, traffic builds up on the A14.

Although port restrictions occur for a variety of reasons, the main cause is high winds, which prevent safe operations at the Port's container terminals, Landguard and Trinity. Initially, when the Port is closed, container vehicles are queued or 'stacked' in the on-port holding areas. However, when these areas are full and traffic begins queuing on the A14, 'Operation Stack' is implemented to help manage this traffic.



## Why is the existing 'Operation Stack' plan being improved?

The current arrangements for 'Operation Stack' involve container vehicles being stacked on Port of Felixstowe Road on the A14. Holding stationary traffic adjacent to a 'live' lane represents an unacceptable danger to police officers, highway workers, hauliers and other road users. The current system can also cause congestion and has, in the past, led to major disruption on the A14 and on local roads in and around Felixstowe.

Therefore, it has become necessary to improve these arrangements. In partnership with Suffolk Police, the Highways Agency, local councils and other stakeholders, new arrangements have been agreed, which will come into use from 6th March 2008.



## Contact Us

If you have any queries regarding the new arrangements under the 'Operation Stack' plan, please contact:

Corporate Affairs Department  
Port of Felixstowe  
Tomline House  
The Dock  
Felixstowe  
Suffolk  
IP11 3SY

Tel: (01394) 604553  
E-mail: [enquiries@fdrc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@fdrc.co.uk)  
[www.portoffelixstowe.co.uk](http://www.portoffelixstowe.co.uk)

Working in partnership with



Printed on chlorine-free paper from sustainable sources.

# New Arrangements for 'Operation Stack' from 6th March 2008

This leaflet has been produced by the Port of Felixstowe to inform haulage companies and container vehicle drivers of the new arrangements under the 'Operation Stack' plan.



Port of Felixstowe

# New arrangements for 'Operation Stack'

The location of the new 'Operation Stack' will be the old A45 at Levington. Vehicles travelling to the Port of Felixstowe will be notified that 'Operation Stack' has been implemented by advanced warning signs along the various routes leading to Felixstowe. This will also be communicated to haulage companies by e-mail.



**Important: When 'Operation Stack' is in place, container vehicles should either proceed to a local yard, or to the new stacking site at Levington.**

At Junction 58 (Seven Hills Interchange), container vehicles travelling to the Port should exit the A14 and follow signs directing them onto the A1156, and then onto the old A45 at Levington. Traffic will be stacked on both sides of the road, leaving an emergency safety lane down the middle.

On release from 'Operation Stack', each vehicle will be given a 'ticket', which will enable the driver to gain access to the Port.

Vehicles will be released in a controlled manner by Suffolk Police, from the eastern end of the old A45. Under normal circumstances they will be escorted out of the stack by Suffolk Police, whereafter they should proceed directly to the Port via Junction 58 (Seven Hills Interchange).

There will be two types of 'tickets' under the new arrangements:

## 'Yard tickets'

Haulage yards situated within Felixstowe can apply for an allocation of 'yard tickets'. Tickets will be allocated against an agreed proportion of the total number of vehicles based in the yard.

## 'Stack tickets'

Container vehicles held on the old A45 at Levington will be given a 'stack ticket' prior to being released to complete their journey to the Port.

**Important: Throughout the duration of 'Operation Stack', no container vehicles will be allowed into the Port without a valid 'ticket'.**

Once the Port's Vehicle Booking System (VBS) is fully operational, a 'ticket' and a valid VBS booking number will be required in order to gain access to the Port, in the first phase of the recovery period. Vehicles with a VBS booking number, but without a 'ticket', will only be allowed access to the Port once all those vehicles with tickets have been handled. Vehicles with a 'ticket', but without a valid VBS booking number, will not be serviced.

On arrival at the Port, 'tickets' must be surrendered to the Port Police.

Once all vehicles with tickets have been serviced, other vehicles, i.e. those without tickets, will be handled.

**Important: During 'Operation Stack', Suffolk Police will rigorously enforce no parking/no waiting restrictions in the roads around the Port.**



Congestion caused by high winds can cause great inconvenience to local people. Please help to minimise any disturbance by co-operating fully with the new 'Operation Stack' arrangements.

You should note that only those vehicles complying fully with the new arrangements will be serviced in the first phase of any post-stoppage recovery period.

