

May 2026

Emergency Fuel Surcharge (EFS) – London Thamesport

Dear Customer,

London Thamesport remains committed to providing reliable and efficient services to support UK trade during a period of continued global uncertainty.

Recent geopolitical developments have resulted in a rapid and material increase in diesel prices. Since the escalation of the conflict in Iran, diesel costs have risen by approximately 29%, significantly impacting one of the port's key operating cost components.

The port continues to take steps to mitigate fuel price volatility where possible; however, the scale and pace of recent increases now exceed levels that can reasonably be absorbed.

To maintain consistent service levels for all port users, London Thamesport will introduce an Emergency Fuel Surcharge (EFS) with effect from 1st June 2026.

- The EFS will be £5.25 per import laden container
- The charge will be levied to the customs declarant (clearing agent)
- The surcharge reflects increased diesel costs only
- The EFS will be reviewed monthly

Fuel prices are currently changing on a weekly basis; however, applying weekly changes would create a significant administrative burden and cost uncertainty for customers. For this reason, the port has adopted a monthly review cycle.

Should the surcharge be required to continue beyond June, an updated price will be calculated and communicated by 15th June 2026.

Kind regards,

Mike Hallows
General Manager

Emergency Fuel Surcharge – FAQs

When will the Emergency Fuel Surcharge commence?

The Emergency Fuel Surcharge will apply from 1st June to all applicable import containers that out-gate after midnight on 31st May 2026.

Who will be invoiced the EFS?

The £5.25 for each import laden container will be charged to the Customs Declarant. The Declarant will receive a rebate of £0.25p per surcharge to cover administrative costs incurred through collection.

What costs does the Emergency Fuel Surcharge cover?

The surcharge is designed to recover the increase in diesel costs associated with terminal operations versus a baseline price pre the crisis in the middle east.

Why is the surcharge being introduced now?

Since the start of military action in the middle east on 28th February 2026 and the closure of the Straits of Hormuz, diesel prices have increased sharply.

Why does the surcharge apply to imports only?

The UK economy is driven by imports entering the country through our ports. By levying the charge on all import cargo, it will have minimal impact on the cost of goods contained within each container. The price that the levy is set at assumes a round trip for each container, many of which leave our shores empty.

How often will the surcharge be reviewed?

The surcharge will be reviewed monthly based on prevailing diesel prices.

How long will the levy be in place?

It is difficult to say at this stage as the factors increasing the current costs are outside of our control, but we will commit to reviewing the costs monthly and aim to minimise the impact to our customers.