Giant Lock Box Warns Container Buyers: Late-July Tariff Wave Creates a Pricing Deadline, and Used Inventory Is the Hedge

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Middletown, New York - July 15, 2026 -
Giant Lock Box, a family-operated shipping container dealer serving all 50 states from its Middletown, New York depot, today published a detailed market analysis warning container buyers that two converging cost pressures ? a new round of U.S. import duties taking effect in late July and ocean freight rates at a four-year high ? are set to reprice new container inventory within weeks.

The analysis, Giant Lock Box?s late-July tariff guidance for container buyers, lays out the numbers driving the deadline. New duties of 10% to 12.5% on goods from roughly sixty countries land in late July, per Bloomberg reporting, stacking on top of tariffs of 10% to 25% on steel, aluminum, and manufactured goods from Asia in place since early 2026. Because China builds the overwhelming majority of new containers sold in the United States, every new one-trip unit on a U.S. lot carries that import-cost load.

The freight side is moving just as fast. Drewry?s World Container Index jumped 9% in a single week to $4,530 per 40-foot container on July 2, and Bloomberg reports the cost of moving a 40-foot container from East Asia to the U.S. West Coast has climbed 120% in six weeks, reaching $6,200. Industry tracker

Spinnaker Equipment projects bulk container prices could rise 15% to 35% through 2026 ? on a $7,000 one-trip high cube, even the low end of that range represents more than $1,000 in new cost that did not exist in the spring.

?Two clocks are running on container buyers this month, and they?re both about to hit zero,? said a Giant Lock Box spokesperson. ?We?re a dealer, not a forecaster, and we won?t pretend to know exactly where new-unit pricing settles by fall. But the direction is not in dispute among the people who track this market for a living. What buyers can control is the date on their quote ? and this month, the date matters as much as the number.?

The company?s central guidance is that domestically stocked used containers are the buyer?s hedge. A used unit sitting in a U.S. depot cleared customs years ago ? it carries no new tariff exposure, no ocean freight surcharge, and no peak-season repositioning cost. Current used pricing runs roughly $1,200 to $2,800 for a 20-foot unit and $1,800 to $3,500 for a 40-foot, per Metal-Buildings.org?s 2026 cost guide, against $2,500 to $7,000 for new one-trip units.

The analysis is equally direct about the caveat: used prices will not stand still. When new-unit costs jump, demand spills into the used market and tightens resale supply. Buyers who move before the spillover shop a different market than buyers who wait for August.

The guidance closes with three concrete recommendations for anyone with a container purchase on their 2026 plans. First, get a written quote now and confirm how long it holds ? reputable dealers hold pricing for a defined window, typically 14 to 30 days, meaning a quote issued this week reaches across the late-July deadline. Second, settle the size question against the delivery site rather than the price sheet, since tilt-bed delivery of a 40-foot unit requires roughly 100 feet of straight-line clearance many residential sites lack. Third, have the delivery site prepared ? ground firmness, leveling, overhead clearance ? so the quote window doesn?t expire during preparation.

Northeast buyers hold a regional advantage. The Port of New York and New Jersey moved 837,993 TEUs in March, up 6.9% year over year, keeping regional depots stocked in both used and one-trip condition. Giant Lock Box reports solid availability across its New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania markets, and is holding written quotes through the deadline window for buyers who commit before the new duties take effect.

Giant Lock Box is a family-operated shipping container sales, rental, and modification company headquartered at 71 Dolson Ave in Middletown, New York. The company sells new and used containers in all 50 states, operates its own tilt-bed delivery fleet across the Northeast, and specializes in precise container

placement on difficult sites. Placement experts are available Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET.

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Giant LockBox

Giant LockBox is a family-operated shipping container depot delivering and placing containers where customers need them, with honest grading, upfront delivery costs, and expert placement support across all 50 states.

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