

PETROLEUM EMPLOYEES UNION

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SINCE : 1954

Date: 17.07.2026

To,
President Western Offshore
ONGC Ltd.
8th Floor, Vasudhara Bhavan, Bandra (E), Mumbai.

Subject: Urgent Request to Restore Perishable Food Container Supply Frequency to Four Times per Month for Offshore Platforms/Rigs.

Respected Sir,

We write to you on behalf of the Petroleum Employees Union to bring to your immediate attention a critical issue impacting the health, well-being, and morale of our offshore personnels.

Recently, the delivery frequency of Containers carrying perishable food items to offshore platforms/ Rigs was reduced from **four times per month to just twice per month**. While this decision may have been aimed at logistical optimization, its practical ground-level consequences are severely affecting the everyday lives & morale of our offshore workforce.

1. Inadequate Onboard Refrigeration & Infrastructure Limitations :

A pivotal factor that makes the bi-monthly schedule entirely unviable is the limitation of our offshore infrastructure. **The existing onboard refrigeration facilities across various offshore installations and rigs are structurally inadequate to store a 15-day stock of perishable items.**

Furthermore, it is prudent to note that these aging cold storage spaces frequently struggle to maintain the strict sub-zero and chilled temperatures required to preserve fresh food over extended periods. **Attempting to force a 15-day inventory into these units inevitably leads to rapid, premature spoilage, defeating the very purpose of bulk deliveries.**

2. Vessel Power Interruptions & Transit HVAC Failures :

Relying on a 15-day cycle significantly amplifies the risks associated with transit logistics. It is a known operational reality that **Supply Vessels carrying these Containers frequently fail to provide an uninterrupted power supply to all onboard refrigerated containers at all times during voyages.**

These intermittent power supply, combined with the risk of general HVAC mechanical breakdowns, cause the internal temperatures of the containers to fluctuate drastically during transit. Consequently, the bulk of the fresh food undergoes accelerated decay before it even arrives at the platform/Rigs. Because the next delivery is scheduled half a month later, a single transit failure leaves the platform entirely starved of fresh perishables for weeks.

3. The Monsoon & Weather-Related Delays :

The reduction in frequency has proved highly problematic, particularly during the ongoing monsoon season. Due to adverse weather and sea conditions, vessel movements are routinely delayed by 2 to 4 days. Combined with power fluctuations on vessels and the storage

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limitations mentioned above, these delays stretch the gap between successive deliveries to an unsustainable **18 to 20 days**.

4. Impact on Health, Nutrition, and Spoilage :

Essential daily items—including milk, paneer, dairy products, green vegetables, fruits, eggs, chicken, and mutton—cannot survive these long intervals under the current supply chain conditions.

- **Recent Incident:** In a recent delivery at BPB Platform, an entire batch of eggs and brinjal (eggplant) was found infested with worms and had to be discarded entirely. Consequently, offshore employees were deprived of these fresh items for the next 10 to 15 days, depending on vessel availability.
- **Health Risks:** A prolonged diet devoid of fresh produce and heavily reliant on frozen or preserved food leads to reduced immunity, digestive issues, fatigue, and lower overall physical well-being. Fresh food is a basic necessity for maintaining the stamina required for demanding offshore operations.

The Catering teams at Offshore are currently struggling to stretch limited ingredients within failing storage and transit constraints, resulting in a direct hit to employee morale. Sir, to resolve this critical welfare issue, **the Union strongly urges the Management to immediately restore the previous supply frequency of four perishable food container deliveries per month.**

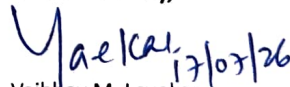
Reverting to the weekly schedule will:

- Align supply volumes with the actual, realistic capacity of onboard refrigeration units.
- Minimize the transit spoilage risk caused by inadequate supply points & power interruptions on Supply Vessels.
- Buffer the impact of monsoon-related vessel delays.
- Guarantee a continuous supply of highly nutritious, fresh food.
- Greatly boost the morale and productivity of our offshore team.

We request you to treat this matter with the utmost priority and arrange a prompt intervention to restore the weekly supply cycle. We look forward to a positive and swift resolution.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours Sincerely,


Vaibhav M. Lavekar
General Secretary

Copy to :

1. ED – Chief Corporate Logistics, 11 High Office Complex, Sion, Mumbai.
2. ED – Chief HR Services, RO Mumbai, NBP Green Heights, BKC, Mumbai.
3. CGM - Head Offshore Logistics, 11 High Office Complex, Sion, Mumbai.
4. CGM - Head Nhava Supply Base, Offshore Logistics, Nhava.
5. Head Medical Services, RO ONGC Mumbai, NBP Green Heights, BKC, Mumbai.
6. GM (HR) – Head HR-ER, Mumbai Assets, Vasudhara Bhavan, Mumbai.
7. GM (HR) – I/C IR, RO ONGC Mumbai, NBP Green Heights, BKC, Mumbai.