

Transnet restores some operations at Richards Bay port

By [Promit Mukherjee](#)

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South Africa's state-owned port operator Transnet said on Wednesday the company had restored operations at five of the seven conveyor belts that were hit by fire last week at its Richards Bay Port, forcing it to declare force majeure.



One of the two new rail-mounted stacker reclaimers which scoop up and transfer coal into and out of the yard is seen at Africa's largest coal export facility, the Richards Bay Coal Terminal, Richards Bay harbour, South Africa, June 21, 2018. REUTERS/Tanisha Heiberg

The company had declared a force majeure at its Richards Bay Bulk Terminal - located off the Richards Bay port - late Friday after a second fire in a week hit operations at the port.

The cause of the fire is still not known, but no casualties were reported.

It did not clarify if the force majeure was still in effect or if exports had been affected.

"In Richards Bay, significant progress has been made in restoring operations - five of the seven conveyor belts have been

fully restored and are back in operation," the country's monopoly freight and logistics firm said in a statement to its bondholders.



LEGAL

Transnet declares force majeure at Richards Bay terminal

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The port, which has Africa's largest coal export facility, has deployed manual handling to ensure continuity of operations to make up for the conveyor belts that were still un-operational, it added.

The company's Durban grain export terminal was also hit by a fire on 16 October, Transnet's statement said.

Out of the two conveyor belts at the Durban port, the one handling grain was affected by the fire.

"The terminal is working around the clock to ensure that the belt is restored and back in operation by the time the next grain vessel arrives at the Port on 26 October 2021," the company said.

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