

Beacon API documentation

Overview

Beacon API allows you to programmatically create and track shipments with Beacon, for example updating container ETAs in your ERP or TMS. This guide details what data can be exchanged with Beacon via our API endpoints to help you implement this in your system. If you have feedback or questions please contact your Customer Success Manager or let us know at support@beacon.com.

1. Getting started

Follow the steps below to start the implementation. If you are not a Beacon customer, please get in touch with us at support@beacon.com first. If you are a Beacon customer, your username and password can be used to access both the platform and the API. Admin users in your company can grant access to the API on a user level.

1.1. Start using the Beacon API

Our API responses use JSON API schema and our APIs can be used with any HTTP client, for example Postman. You can find the collection of requests [here](#).

1.1.1. Login

Use the following endpoint to authenticate the user and login to the API.

POST <https://api.beacon.com>

1.1.1.1. Request example

```
{
  "username": "user123@gmail.com",
  "password": "password123!"
}
```

Field	Required?	Type	Description
username	Yes	String	Beacon username
password	Yes	String	Beacon password

1.1.1.2. Response example

```
{
  "access_token": "eyJ...",
  "refresh_token": "GE...",
  "token_type": "Bearer",
  "expires_in": 3600
}
```

Field	Always included?	Type	Description
access_token	Yes	String	Access token
refresh_token	Yes	String	Refresh token
token_type	Yes	String	Token type
expires_in	Yes	Int	Time to expiration in seconds

1.1.2. Refresh token

Use the following endpoint to refresh your token if it has expired.

POST <https://api.beacon.com/v1/login/token>

1.1.2.1. Request example

```
{
  "refresh_token": "GE..."
}
```

Field	Required?	Type	Description
refresh_token	Yes	String	Beacon token

1.1.2.2. Response example

```
{
  "access_token": "eyJ...",
  "refresh_token": "GE...",
  "token_type": "Bearer",
  "expires_in": 3600
}
```

Field	Always included?	Type	Description
access_token	Yes	String	Access token
refresh_token	Yes	String	Refresh token
token_type	Yes	String	Token type
expires_in	Yes	Int	Time to expiration in seconds

2. Start tracking a container

Use the following endpoint to start tracking **one or more containers** with Beacon.

POST <https://api.beacon.com/v1/containers>

Once the request is sent to Beacon, we will validate the syntax of the container number. If successful, the container will be visible in the Beacon platform and you will receive a successful response. Beacon will then attempt to fetch tracking data for the container's current journey. Once the tracking data is received, it will be available in the Beacon platform and can be fetched using the endpoint in the next section.

Important Please note that your contracted usage will be consumed if the request is successful and tracking data is found.

Reminder Please ensure you are sending **only containers that you are actively tracking** (i.e. your shipment in the container is about to be or currently in-transit). Beacon will always fetch tracking data that relates to the current journey of the container and not to journeys that have ended.

If a container sent to Beacon is a container you are no longer tracking, we will still fetch data relating to the container's current journey. If we are able to return data to you, your contracted usage will be consumed.

2.1. Request example

```
[
  {
    "container_number": "CSQU3054383"
  },
  {
    "container_number": "CSQU3054382"
  }
]
```

Field	Required?	Type	Description
container_number	Yes	String	Container number

2.2. Response example

The response will either be a successful status code, or an error status code along with a relevant error messaging shown in section 4.

3. Get the latest tracking data

Important ▾ We recommend scheduling your system to fetch tracking data from Beacon no more frequently than every 2 hours.

3.1. Get updates for one container

Use the following endpoint to get the latest tracking data for **one container** you have started tracking with Beacon.

GET ▾ <https://api.beacon.com/v1/containers/{containerNumber}>

3.1.1. Request example

All you need to pass to Beacon is the above endpoint, with the container number included.

Field	Required?	Type	Description
containerNumber	Yes	String	Container number

3.1.2. Response example

Important Note below that for all date fields, the value will be in “date” format only if “date_time” is not provided by the data sources. For the best results, we suggest implementing an if/else condition to fall back to “date” if “date_time” is not available.

```
{
  "container_number": "CSQU3054383",
  "port_of_loading": {
    "name": "Yantian",
    "un_location_code": "CNYTN"
  },
  "port_of_discharge": {
    "name": "Felixstowe",
    "un_location_code": "GBFXT"
  },
  "vessel_departure_dates": {
    "estimated_date": {
      "date_time": "2023-02-20T16:15:07.048Z"
    },
    "actual_date": {
      "date_time": "2023-02-20T16:15:07.048Z"
    }
  },
  "vessel_arrival_dates": {
    "estimated_date": {
      "date": "2023-02-20"
    },
    "actual_date": {
      "date": "2023-02-20"
    }
  },
  "vessel": {
    "name": "CMA CGM LYRA",
    "imo_number": "9410806"
  },
  "carrier": {
    "name": "Maersk",
    "code": "MAEU"
  },
  "status": "SCHEDULED",
}
```

Field	Subfield	Always included?	Type	Description
container_number		Yes	String	Container number
port_of_loading	name	No	String	Name of Port of Loading
	un_location_code	No	String	Location code of Port of Loading
port_of_discharge	name	No	String	Name of Port of Discharge
	un_location_code	No	String	Location code of Port of Discharge
vessel_departure_dates	estimated_date_time	No	String	ETD in datetime format
	estimated_date	No	String	ETD in date format
	actual_date_time	No	String	ATD in datetime format
	actual_date	No	String	ATD in date format
vessel_arrival_dates	estimated_date_time	No	String	ETA in datetime format
	estimated_date	No	String	ETA in date format
	actual_date_time	No	String	ATA in datetime format
	actual_date	No	String	ATA in date format
vessel	name	No	String	Vessel name
	imo_number	No	String	Vessel IMO number
carrier	name	No	String	Carrier name
	code	No	String	Carrier code
status		Yes	String	Status of the container (SCHEDULED, IN_TRANSIT, ARRIVED_AT_PORT, PROCESSING)

3.2. Get updates for more than one container

Use the following endpoint to get the latest tracking data for **more than one container** you have started tracking with Beacon.

GET <https://api.beacon.com/v1/containers>

3.2.1. Request example

- For a specific number of containers that have the freshest tracking data

```
{
  "limit": 40,
  "start": 0
}
```

If you do not specify the number of containers to return, all containers that have previously been added to Beacon will be returned. This endpoint uses pagination - you can *limit* the number of containers returned, for example get the 40 containers with the freshest tracking data and specify the *start* of the container count.

- For specific containers

```
{
  "container_numbers": ["CSQU3054383", "CSQU3023455"]
}
```

If the *container_number* field passed to Beacon consists of specific container numbers, the response will not be paginated. You can pass up to 50 *container_numbers*.

Field	Required?	Type	Description
container_numbers	No	Array [String]	Container numbers. Maximum 50 container_numbers allowed in one request.
limit	No	Int	Limit the number of results returned, defaults to 50
start	No	Int	Start index of the results returned, defaults to 0

3.2.2. Response

The headers will be present only for paginated response. The response body will be a list of the container objects shown in section 3.1.2.

Response header	Always included?	Type	Description
total_results	No	Int	Total number of results available
next_index	No	Int	Start index of the remaining results to return. Will be omitted if there are no more results to return.

4. Status codes & error messaging

Each response from Beacon will have a status code detailed below. If there is an error, the following error messaging will be provided.

```
{
  "status_code": 400,
  "timestamp": "2023-02-20T17:35:35.916Z",
  "error": "Validation error",
  "sub_errors": [
    {
      "object": "ContainerResource",
      "field": "container_number",
      "error": "Must not be null"
    }
  ]
}
```

Field	Subfield	Always included?	Type	Description
status_code		Yes	Int	Success = 200, Bad request = 400, Unauthorised = 401, Forbidden = 403, Rate limit exceeded = 429
timestamp		No	String	Timestamp of error
error		No	String	Main error message
sub_errors		No	Array	A list of more descriptive errors
	object	Yes	String	The name of the object responsible for an error
	field	No	String	A field responsible for an error
	rejectedValue	No	String	The field value which caused an error (non-null values only)
	error	Yes	String	Sub error message