

Ocean and Sea Freight Shipping: Rates, Quotes, and Charges - TopAlpha Ocean Freight

In cases of high volumes of freight, you should consider ocean freight. Here's your ocean guide, from choosing the right mode to calculating shipping costs and transit times.

Ocean Freight Meaning: What Is Ocean Freight?

The ocean freight transport is the shipping of goods by sea in shipping containers.

Transport by ocean is the most common mode for importers and exporters. 90% of all cargo is shipped via ocean freight or sea freight. In addition to the other modes of international freight transportation (courier, standard air freight, express air freight), each of them is also more expensive. Most small shipments, as well as valuable goods, go by these other modes.

In cases where ocean freight would be too slow and air freight too expensive, some freight forwarders offer express shipping. Faster than air freight, but may be less expensive. The system streamlines ocean freight processes and ties in with only the fastest ocean services and premium trucking services.

Why Ship By Sea?

We can hold 10000 beer bottles in one container! And ocean freight is cheaper. If your shipment weighs more than 500 kg, air freight is too expensive. The chargeable weight calculator can help you determine whether you will pay by actual weight or dimensional weight for light shipments. Please refer to our FBX index for the latest international shipping rates.

The number of restrictions is fewer International law, national law, carrier organization regulations, and individual carrier regulations all play a role in defining and restricting what is considered dangerous for transport. There are generally more restrictions on air freight than on ocean freight, including: gases (e.g. lamp bulbs), all things flammable (e.g.), toxic or corrosive items (e.g. batteries), magnetic substances (e.g. In addition to speakers, oxidizers, biochemical products (e.g. chemical medicines), and public health risks (e.g. untanned hides). To learn more, refer to the Hazardous Material Table.

Seaborne CO2 emissions are minuscule in comparison with airborne CO2 emissions.

According to this research, the transportation of 2 tonnes by ocean freight for 5000 kilometers will result in 150 kg of CO2 emissions, compared to 6605 kg of CO2 emissions by air freight.

ocean freight

What Are The Downsides Of Ocean Freight?

Speed aircraft are about 30 times faster than ocean liners. Passenger jets cruise at 575 mph, whereas slow ocean liners go 16-18 mph. As a result, it's no surprise that a shipment going by air freight from China to the US usually takes at least 20 extra days than a shipment by ocean freight.

Ocean freight generally takes much longer to deliver than air freight because of port

congestion, customs delays, and bad weather conditions. The tracking technology used in air freight is usually more advanced than that used in ocean freight at this time. Ocean freight is therefore more likely to go missing than air freight. Shipments under a container load are particularly vulnerable to this. Despite that, digitization has improved ocean freight reliability. Unlike air cargo, ocean freight is more likely to be damaged or destroyed. It's because it's in transit for a longer period of time and because ships are more likely to move. If your ocean cargo falls off a ship, don't worry too much about it. A common urban myth claims 10000 containers are lost each year, but it's more like 546 of 120 million containers a year that fall into the drink. Even less likely is piracy. Horn of Africa, Gulf of Guinea, and the Malacca Strait have been hotspots in recent years.

Ocean Freight Services

There are also two options for ocean and sea freight: full container loads and less than container loads. A LCL consists of several shipments packed into one container. A forwarder has more work to do; additional paperwork is involved along with having to consolidate the shipments before a main transit and then de-consolidate them once they arrive at the other end. This gives LCL three disadvantages:

It takes a long time for an LCL shipment to arrive as compared to an FCL shipment. The manufacturer typically recommends allowing an additional week or two for LCL.

Loss, misplacement, and damage are more likely to occur with LCL.

LCL costs more per cubic meter.

In general, the shipping rates for FCL are much lower than for LCL, so it may be worthwhile to use a full container once your shipment grows large enough, even if your shipment does not fill the entire container. The tipping point for upgrading from LCL to FCL (the smallest container is a 20 footer) is around 15 cubic meters.

Sea Freight Rates per kg

In general, LCL is priced per volume of goods, and not per weight.

Choose the most cost-effective mode for your product using these rules of thumb:

Shipments weighing more than 500 kg are economically unviable via air freight.

The shipping cost for China-US shipments is approximately \$2-\$4 / kg, and the shipping will take anywhere from 30-40 days.

Air freight can be an economic choice for China-US shipments between 150 kg and 500 kg, which will take 8-10 days.

Express air freight can be faster, but is more expensive.

For packages under 150 kg, express shipping is an economic option.

Here are some common ocean and sea freight rates, costs, and charges included in your freight quote:

Here are the items you can expect to see on ocean freight quotes and invoices: