

Sea Freight from China to Bujumbura

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□ Sea Freight

China → Bujumbura · via BJM air / Dar es Salaam transit · clearance by Office Burundais des Recettes (OBR)



Cargo handling on the China-Bujumbura lane.

Freight from China into Bujumbura clears through BJM air / Dar es Salaam transit. Bujumbura is the commercial capital and lake port, and allow +2 days for the inland leg on top of clearance.

The clearing authority is Office Burundais des Recettes (OBR). Historical dwell on this gateway is around 10-20 days, and it lengthens in Sep-Dec.

How this lane actually runs

Burundi sits at the end of the longest inland corridor in East Africa — roughly 1,400 km from Dar es Salaam. The road leg is the dominant cost and time factor, frequently exceeding the ocean freight itself, and the Central Corridor’s condition varies by season. Quote the inland leg explicitly rather than folding it into a single figure.

Sea gateways used	Landlocked — via Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) or Mombasa (Kenya)
Sea transit, China to gateway	40-55 calendar days including the inland corridor
Gateway serving Bujumbura	BJM air / Dar es Salaam transit
Inland leg to Bujumbura	+2 days from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	10-20 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Dec

Duty, tax and clearance into Bujumbura

Imports into Burundi are cleared by Office Burundais des Recettes (OBR). The headline position is: VAT 18%; EAC common external tariff 0-35%. The de-minimis threshold is No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Pre-export verification of conformity for regulated goods; EAC certificate of origin where applicable. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Burundi: Inland corridor transit through Tanzania requires bonded documentation and is the main schedule risk. Foreign-currency availability constrains duty settlement. PVoC conformity applies to regulated goods.



Handling on the BJM air / Dar es Salaam transit routing serving Bujumbura.

Before you book: Bujumbura checklist

- Put the Bujumbura delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Budget for the inland leg: +2 days beyond gateway clearance to reach Bujumbura.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Burundi duty rate against it yourself.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Pre-export verification of conformity for regulated goods; EAC certificate of origin where applicable.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Bujumbura take?

China to the Burundi gateway is 40–55 calendar days including the inland corridor. On top of that, allow 10–20 days of clearance with Office Burundais des Recettes (OBR) and a +2 days inland leg to Bujumbura.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Bujumbura?

Office Burundais des Recettes (OBR) applies: VAT 18%; EAC common external tariff 0–35%. The de-minimis position is No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Bujumbura.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Bujumbura?

Yes. Delivery to a Bujumbura address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Office Burundais des Recettes (OBR), and the +2 days inland leg. Confirm whether your consignee wants the goods at a warehouse, a marketplace fulfillment center or a shop front, because the last-mile requirement differs.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Bujumbura?

Yes. Battery cargo by sea moves under UN3480/UN3481 with an MSDS, and the dangerous-goods documentation is prepared as part of the booking into Landlocked — via Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) or Mombasa (Kenya). Surcharges apply and space is more limited than for general cargo.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Bujumbura?

We compare actual gross weight against volumetric weight — length × width × height in centimeters divided by 6000 for air — and bill the greater of the two, rounded up to the next kilogram. Light, bulky cargo is almost always billed on volume.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Bujumbura?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 40–55 calendar days including the inland corridor by sea versus 6–9 business days by air to the Burundi gateway, before clearance and the +2 days inland leg. The crossover point is normally somewhere between 100 and 300 kg depending on the density of your cargo.

Other delivery cities in Burundi

- [China to Gitega](#)
- [China to Ngozi](#)
- [China to Rumonge](#)

[All Burundi freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Burundi change by ministerial decision, sometimes mid-year. The figures on this page are buyer-planning references, not a customs ruling — confirm the current position for your own HS code with Office Burundais des Recettes (OBR) or your broker before you ship.

- [Office Burundais des Recettes](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [IATA — Lithium battery shipping guidance \(PI 965–970\)](#)
- [World Bank — Logistics Performance Index](#)
- [ICC — Incoterms 2020 rules \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)

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Shipping by industry

This page covers the route and clearance picture for the destination. Packing, classification and the compliance step that actually holds a shipment depend on what you are sending — these guides cover that by commodity.

- [Automotive Glass Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Doors & Windows Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Paper Packaging Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)
- [Packaging Materials Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Connectors Electronic Components & Semiconductors](#)
- [Consumer Electronics Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [Air Conditioning Equipment Home Appliances, HVAC & Commercial](#)
- [Kitchenware Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Home Textiles Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Medical Device Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)
- [Personal Protective Equipment Fire, Safety & Traffic Products](#)
- [Beauty Equipment Beauty, Personal Care & Wellness](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Burundi duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Office Burundais des Recettes (OBR) against your declared HS code at the time of entry; where the amount is material, verify the current rate through [ITC Market Access Map](#) before committing to an order.

If you want to sanity-check a duty figure yourself, start from the heading rather than the product name — [the WCO Harmonized System](#) is the underlying nomenclature, and [the WTO Tariff & Trade Data portal](#) holds the applied rates by country pair.

For ocean cargo, restricted commodities move under [the IMO's IMDG Code](#), and the container has to be declared and stowed accordingly. Batteries, flammables and corrosives all have a compliant ocean path; what causes rolled bookings is finding out about them after the container is packed.

On the origin side, export declaration and any commodity inspection requirement fall under [China Customs \(GACC\)](#); we handle that filing as part of the service, but the requirement is theirs, not ours.

Watch: the process behind this route

This guide covers routing and clearance for Bujumbura. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

How to Calculate CBM in Shipping | Volume vs Weight Explained | CBM Formula & Freight Cost Guide — 10 Min For Supply Chain.
Published on YouTube by a third party; we link it because it explains the process well, not because we produced it or endorse the

provider.

Get a rate for Bujumbura

This lane is quoted per shipment rather than from a published rate card, because the landed cost depends on the commodity, its density, the conformity requirements above and the delivery point. Send the cargo details and we will come back with a full DDP figure.

[Request a quote →](#)

Freight Rates to Burundi

📦 Cargo Weight (KG)

☐ Enter the actual gross weight of your shipment in kilograms. If you're unsure, fill in the volume fields below and we'll calculate it for you.

☐ Or enter volume (cm) — volumetric weight ÷ 6000

× ×

Non-integers rounded up. Larger of actual vs volumetric is used.

☐ Number of Boxes

Total chargeable weight = weight per box × number of boxes.

⚠ When you have not filled in the volume information, our prices may be inaccurate.

Sea Freight to Bujumbura, Burundi: Transit Time, Duty & Clearance

Sea Freight from China to Bujumbura, Burundi. Transit 40–55 calendar days including the inland corridor to the gateway, 10–20 days dwell, +2 days inland. Duty, documents and packing.

Get a Quote

Send the cargo details and we respond within one business day with a full DDP figure for Bujumbura.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Bujumbura by Mode

- [All modes — Bujumbura](#)
- [→ Air Freight](#)

Other Cities in Burundi

- [China to Gitega](#)
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Other Africa Destinations

- [Shipping to Algeria](#)
- [Shipping to Cape Verde](#)
- [Shipping to Comoros](#)
- [Shipping to Congo \(Brazzaville\)](#)
- [Shipping to Djibouti](#)
- [Shipping to Egypt](#)
- [Shipping to Eswatini](#)
- [Shipping to Ethiopia](#)

Customs clearance in Burundi

Duty and tax position, certification, typical port dwell and what actually holds shipments at this border — plus who files the entry.

[Burundi clearance requirements](#) →