

Sea Freight from China to Santiago

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☐ Sea Freight

China → Santiago · via SCL air / San Antonio sea · clearance by Servicio Nacional de Aduanas de Chile



Cargo handling on the China-Santiago lane.

Santiago is capital holding the majority of national demand, and it is served through SCL air / San Antonio sea. That combination is what actually sets your delivery date on this lane — allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

The clearing authority is Servicio Nacional de Aduanas de Chile. Historical dwell on this gateway is around 2-6 days, and it lengthens in Sep-Nov.

What the routing looks like in practice

Chile was the first South American country to sign a free trade agreement with China, and most goods now enter at 0% duty against a valid certificate of origin — leaving 19% IVA as the main landed-cost element. Clearance at San Antonio and Valparaíso is comparatively fast and predictable by regional standards, which makes Chile a common first market for exporters testing South America.

Sea gateways used	San Antonio, Valparaíso, Coronel
Sea transit, China to gateway	26–35 calendar days
Gateway serving Santiago	SCL air / San Antonio sea
Inland leg to Santiago	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	2–6 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep–Nov

Import duty and tax position for Santiago

Servicio Nacional de Aduanas de Chile assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Santiago consignees. Current regime: IVA 19%; general duty 6%, but 0% on most goods under the China–Chile free trade agreement with a valid certificate of origin, with a de-minimis position of USD 41 for courier consignments.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: SEC certification for electrical products; SAG clearance for wood packaging and agricultural goods. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Chile: FTA preference depends on a correctly issued certificate of origin; without it the 6% general rate applies. SAG inspects wood packaging strictly — ISPM-15 treatment must be visible and valid. SEC certification is required for electrical goods.



Handling on the SCL air / San Antonio sea routing serving Santiago.

What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- Check the de-minimis position (USD 41 for courier consignments) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.
- Budget for the inland leg: +1 day beyond gateway clearance to reach Santiago.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Put the Santiago delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Santiago take?

China to the Chile gateway is 26–35 calendar days. On top of that, allow 2–6 days of clearance with Servicio Nacional de Aduanas de Chile and a +1 day inland leg to Santiago.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Santiago?

Servicio Nacional de Aduanas de Chile applies: IVA 19%; general duty 6%, but 0% on most goods under the China–Chile free trade agreement with a valid certificate of origin. The de-minimis position is USD 41 for courier consignments. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Santiago.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Santiago?

Yes. Delivery to a Santiago address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Servicio Nacional de Aduanas de Chile, and the +1 day 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.

What documents does Servicio Nacional de Aduanas de Chile require?

A commercial invoice with HS codes, a packing list, the bill of lading or air waybill, a certificate of origin where it lowers duty, and any product certification (SEC certification for electrical products; SAG clearance for wood packaging and agricultural goods). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Santiago?

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 Santiago?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 26–35 calendar days by sea versus 4–6 business days by air to the Chile gateway, before clearance and the +1 day inland leg. The crossover point is normally somewhere between 100 and 300 kg depending on the density of your cargo.

Other delivery cities in Chile

- [China to Iquique](#)
- [China to Valparaiso](#)
- [China to San Antonio](#)
- [China to Concepcion](#)
- [China to Antofagasta](#)
- [China to La Serena](#)
- [China to Temuco](#)

[All Chile freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Chile 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 Servicio Nacional de Aduanas de Chile or your broker before you ship.

- [Servicio Nacional de Aduanas](#)
- [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.

- [Refrigeration Equipment Home Appliances, HVAC & Commercial](#)
- [Tableware Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Apparel Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Hospital Equipment Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)
- [Parking Equipment Fire, Safety & Traffic Products](#)
- [Massage Equipment Beauty, Personal Care & Wellness](#)
- [Arts & Crafts Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Artificial Plants Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Direct to Consumer E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Fasteners Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Pressure Vessels Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Industrial Boilers General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Chile duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Servicio Nacional de Aduanas de Chile 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.

Classification drives everything downstream: the same carton can attract very different duty depending on the heading it lands in, and the structure those headings come from is [the World Customs Organization Harmonized System](#). If your product sits near a boundary between two headings, resolve it before shipping rather than at the border.

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.

If this is your first shipment into Chile, the [Chile Country Commercial Guide](#) covers the practical import environment in more depth than a rate page reasonably can, and it is written by a party with no stake in your booking.

Watch: the process behind this route

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

What Is CBM? Sea Freight Volume Explained (Calculate Shipping Cost Fast!) — DDPCHAIN. 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 Santiago

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](#) → [See the Chile route page](#) →

Freight Rates to Chile

📦 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.

Santiago Sea Freight, Chile: Cost, Transit & Customs

Sea Freight to Santiago: 26–35 calendar days in transit, cleared by Servicio Nacional de Aduanas de Chile, +1 day to the door. What the rate covers and what it does not.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry](#) →

Santiago by Mode

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

Other Cities in Chile

- [China to Iquique](#)
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Other Americas Destinations

- [Shipping to Argentina](#)
- [Shipping to Bolivia](#)
- [Shipping to Brazil](#)
- [Shipping to Colombia](#)
- [Shipping to Costa Rica](#)
- [Shipping to Dominican Republic](#)
- [Shipping to Ecuador](#)
- [Shipping to El Salvador](#)

Route Page

- [Chile DDP route details →](#)
- [All freight destinations →](#)

Customs clearance in Chile

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

[Chile clearance requirements →](#)

Priced routes to Chile

- [Ningbo to Antofagasta FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)
- [Ningbo to Iquique Container Shipping — 40NOR Rates](#)
- [Ningbo to San Antonio Container Shipping — 40HQ Rates](#)
- [Shanghai to Iquique Container Shipping — 40NOR Rates](#)
- [Shanghai to Valparaiso Container Shipping — 40NOR Rates](#)
- [Shanghai-San Antonio Sea Freight: Container Rates and Schedule](#)