

Shipping from China to Brazzaville

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1. [Home](#)
2. [Destinations](#)
3. [Congo \(Brazzaville\)](#)
4. Brazzaville

Africa

China → Brazzaville · via BZV air / Pointe-Noire sea · clearance by Douanes et Droits Indirects du Congo



Cargo handling on the China-Brazzaville lane.

Freight from China into Brazzaville clears through BZV air / Pointe-Noire sea. Brazzaville is capital and the largest consumer market, and allow +2 days for the inland leg on top of clearance.

The clearing authority is Douanes et Droits Indirects du Congo. Historical dwell on this gateway is around 8-18 days, and it lengthens in Oct-Dec.

Duty, tax and clearance into Brazzaville

Imports into Congo (Brazzaville) are cleared by Douanes et Droits Indirects du Congo. The headline position is: VAT 18%; CEMAC common external tariff 5-30%, plus community integration levies. The de-minimis threshold is No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Pre-shipment inspection (BIVAC/SGS) required for most commercial goods. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Congo (Brazzaville): Pre-shipment inspection is mandatory for most commercial goods and must be arranged before departure. CEMAC levies stack on top of the base tariff. The inland leg to Brazzaville should be quoted separately.

What the routing looks like in practice

Pointe-Noire is one of the better-equipped ports on the Atlantic coast of Central Africa and takes direct Asian calls. Brazzaville is served by the rail and road link inland from Pointe-Noire, and it is also the crossing point to Kinshasa — cargo for the two capitals often shares the same ocean leg but diverges completely at clearance.

Air gateways used	BZV (Brazzaville Maya-Maya), PNR (Pointe-Noire)
Air transit, China to gateway	6-9 business days
Sea gateways used	Pointe-Noire
Sea transit, China to gateway	30-40 calendar days
Gateway serving Brazzaville	BZV air / Pointe-Noire sea
Inland leg to Brazzaville	+2 days from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	8-18 days
Peak season to plan around	Oct-Dec



Handling on the BZV air / Pointe-Noire sea routing serving Brazzaville.

Pre-shipment checklist for Brazzaville

- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Pre-shipment inspection (BIVAC/SGS) required for most commercial goods.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Congo (Brazzaville) duty rate against it yourself.
- Confirm the consignee in Brazzaville can act as importer of record — Douanes et Droits Indirects du Congo will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Check the de-minimis position (No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.

Air, sea or overland into Brazzaville?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
→ Air Freight	6–9 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
□ Sea Freight	30–40 calendar days	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed

Transit shown is China departure to the Congo (Brazzaville) gateway and excludes the +2 days inland leg to Brazzaville and 8–18 days of clearance.

Mode guides for Brazzaville

- [➔ Air Freight to Brazzaville](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight to Brazzaville](#)

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Brazzaville take?

China to the Congo (Brazzaville) gateway is 6–9 business days by air, 30–40 calendar days by sea. On top of that, allow 8–18 days of clearance with Douanes et Droits Indirects du Congo and a +2 days inland leg to Brazzaville.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Brazzaville?

Douanes et Droits Indirects du Congo applies: VAT 18%; CEMAC common external tariff 5–30%, plus community integration levies. 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 Brazzaville.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Brazzaville?

Yes. Battery cargo by air follows IATA PI 965–970 depending on how the cells are packed, and moves on certified channels via BZV (Brazzaville Maya-Maya), PNR (Pointe-Noire). Surcharges apply and the declaration has to be made before booking.

What documents does Douanes et Droits Indirects du Congo 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 (Pre-shipment inspection (BIVAC/SGS) required for most commercial goods). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

When is the busiest time on the China–Congo (Brazzaville) lane?

Space and rates tighten around Oct–Dec, plus the China-side windows of Chinese New Year in January or February and Golden Week in early October. Book one to two weeks earlier in those periods.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Brazzaville?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 30–40 calendar days by sea versus 6–9 business days by air to the Congo (Brazzaville) 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 Congo (Brazzaville)

- [China to Pointe-Noire](#)
- [China to Dolisie](#)
- [China to Ouessou](#)

[All Congo \(Brazzaville\) freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Congo (Brazzaville) 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 Douanes et Droits Indirects du Congo or your broker before you ship.

- [Douanes et Droits Indirects du Congo](#)
- [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.

- [Cartons Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)
- [Flexible Packaging Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Capacitors Electronic Components & Semiconductors](#)
- [Smart Home Products Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [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](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Congo (Brazzaville) duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Douanes et Droits Indirects du Congo 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.

Most landed-cost surprises trace back to classification rather than freight. [the WCO Harmonized System](#) defines the heading structure every customs administration builds on, and [ITC Market Access Map](#) will show you the duty a given heading attracts in this destination.

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.

Watch: the process behind this route

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

Sea Freight Shipping Process for Beginners: Complete Factory-to-Door Guide (Every Step Explained) — Vixnk - English. 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 Brazzaville

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 Congo (Brazzaville)

📦 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.

Brazzaville, Congo (Brazzaville) Freight from China: Transit & Customs

Shipping to Brazzaville: gateway BZV air / Pointe-Noire sea, +2 days inland after release, duty assessed by Douanes et Droits Indirects du Congo. Transit, documents and restrictions.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Brazzaville by Mode

- [All modes — Brazzaville](#)
- [✈ Air Freight](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight](#)

Other Cities in Congo (Brazzaville)

- [China to Pointe-Noire](#)
- [China to Dolisie](#)
- [China to Ouessou](#)

Other Africa Destinations

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

Customs clearance in Congo (Brazzaville)

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

[Congo \(Brazzaville\) clearance requirements](#) →