

Shipping from China to Suez

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Africa

China → Suez · via CAI air / Sokhna sea · clearance by Egyptian Customs Authority



Cargo handling on the China-Suez lane.

Freight from China into Suez clears through CAI air / Sokhna sea. Suez is canal city adjoining the Sokhna port, and the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

On the destination side, Egyptian Customs Authority handles clearance; budget 7-15 days of dwell before the cargo is released.

Routing and transit on this lane

Egypt's Advance Cargo Information system is the decisive requirement on this lane: the importer must obtain an ACID number through Nafeza and the exporter must reference it on the shipping documents before the goods leave China. Cargo arriving without a valid ACID is refused entry. On top of that, GOEIC factory registration is required for many consumer categories and takes months

to obtain.

Air gateways used	CAI (Cairo), HRG (Hurghada), ALY (Alexandria)
Air transit, China to gateway	4-7 business days
Sea gateways used	Alexandria, Damietta, Port Said
Sea transit, China to gateway	20-28 calendar days
Gateway serving Suez	CAI air / Sokhna sea
Inland leg to Suez	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	7-15 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov

Import duty and tax position for Suez

Imports into Egypt are cleared by Egyptian Customs Authority. The headline position is: VAT 14%; duty 0-60% depending on commodity, plus development fees on some categories. The de-minimis threshold is No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: ACID number issued through the Nafeza single window before shipment — mandatory; GOEIC registration of the foreign factory for many consumer goods. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Egypt: ACID/Nafeza registration must be completed pre-shipment — this is the single most common cause of rejected cargo. GOEIC registration of the exporting factory is required for a long list of consumer goods. Letters of credit are required for many commercial imports.



Handling on the CAI air / Sokhna sea routing serving Suez.

Air, sea or overland into Suez?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
→ Air Freight	4-7 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
□ Sea Freight	20-28 calendar days	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed

Transit shown is China departure to the Egypt gateway and excludes the same-day inland leg to Suez and 7-15 days of clearance.

Before you book: Suez checklist

- Check the de-minimis position (No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.
- Put the Suez 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.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: ACID number issued through the Nafeza single window before shipment — mandatory; GOEIC registration of the foreign factory for many consumer goods.

Mode guides for Suez

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

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Suez take?

China to the Egypt gateway is 4–7 business days by air, 20–28 calendar days by sea. On top of that, allow 7–15 days of clearance with Egyptian Customs Authority and a same-day inland leg to Suez.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Suez?

Egyptian Customs Authority applies: VAT 14%; duty 0–60% depending on commodity, plus development fees on some categories. 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 Suez.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Suez?

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.

When is the busiest time on the China–Egypt lane?

Space and rates tighten around Sep–Nov, 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.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Suez?

Yes. Delivery to a Suez address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Egyptian Customs Authority, and the same-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.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Suez?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 20–28 calendar days by sea versus 4–7 business days by air to the Egypt gateway, before clearance and the same-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 Egypt

- [China to Cairo](#)
- [China to Giza](#)
- [China to Alexandria](#)
- [China to Port Said](#)
- [China to Sixth of October City](#)

- [China to Mansoura](#)
- [China to Ismailia](#)

[All Egypt freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Egypt 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 Egyptian Customs Authority or your broker before you ship.

- [Egyptian Customs Authority](#)
- [Nafeza single window \(ACID registration\)](#)
- [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.

- [Storage Tanks Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Electric Motors General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Agricultural Drones Agriculture & Livestock Equipment](#)
- [Wire & Cable New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Automotive Lighting Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Flooring Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [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](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Egypt duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Egyptian Customs Authority 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.

If this is your first shipment into Egypt, the [Egypt 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 Suez. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

FCL vs LCL Shipping: When to Switch (Break-Even Point Explained) — Max Antonov. 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 Suez

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 Egypt route page](#) →

Freight Rates to Egypt

📦 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.

Suez, Egypt Import Freight: Gateway, Duty & Time

What it takes to land cargo in Suez, Egypt — CAI air / Sokhna sea gateway, Egyptian Customs Authority clearance, same day onward. Sea and air both covered.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Suez by Mode

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

Other Cities in Egypt

- [China to Cairo](#)
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- [China to Ismailia](#)

Other Africa Destinations

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

Route Page

- [Egypt DDP route details →](#)

- [All freight destinations →](#)

Customs clearance in Egypt

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

[Egypt clearance requirements →](#)

Priced routes to Egypt

- [Ningbo to Alexandria FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)
- [Shanghai to Alexandria Container Shipping — 20GP Rates](#)