

# Sea Freight from China to Soyapango

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China → Soyapango · via SAL air / Acajutla sea · clearance by Dirección General de Aduanas de El Salvador



Cargo handling on the China-Soyapango lane.

We move sea freight cargo from South China into Soyapango through SAL air / Acajutla sea. Soyapango is industrial district of the capital, which shapes the kind of cargo that moves on this lane and how it should be packed.

Clearance itself is handled by Dirección General de Aduanas de El Salvador, and typical dwell at the gateway runs 3–8 days.

## What you will pay on arrival in El Salvador

Imports into El Salvador are cleared by Dirección General de Aduanas de El Salvador. The headline position is: IVA 13%; Central American common tariff 0–15%. The de-minimis threshold is USD 200 for courier consignments.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Health registration for food and cosmetics; conformity for regulated goods. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

**Restrictions and known friction points for El Salvador:** Acajutla has limited direct Asian calls — most cargo transships. Compare the Guatemala routing, which is sometimes faster overall.

## Routing and transit on this lane

El Salvador uses the US dollar, which simplifies pricing, and Acajutla on the Pacific gives a shorter routing from China than the Atlantic Central American ports. Many consignees also clear through Puerto Quetzal in Guatemala and truck across, so it is worth comparing both when quoting.

|                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sea gateways used             | Acajutla                |
| Sea transit, China to gateway | 22-30 calendar days     |
| Gateway serving Soyapango     | SAL air / Acajutla sea  |
| Inland leg to Soyapango       | +1 day from the gateway |
| Typical clearance / dwell     | 3-8 days                |
| Peak season to plan around    | Sep-Nov                 |



Handling on the SAL air / Acajutla sea routing serving Soyapango.

## Before you book: Soyapango checklist

- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Health registration for food and cosmetics; conformity for regulated goods.
- Budget for the inland leg: +1 day beyond gateway clearance to reach Soyapango.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.
- Confirm the consignee in Soyapango can act as importer of record — Dirección General de Aduanas de El Salvador will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.

## Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Soyapango take?

China to the El Salvador gateway is 22–30 calendar days. On top of that, allow 3–8 days of clearance with Dirección General de Aduanas de El Salvador and a +1 day inland leg to Soyapango.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Soyapango?

Dirección General de Aduanas de El Salvador applies: IVA 13%; Central American common tariff 0–15%. The de-minimis position is USD 200 for courier consignments. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Soyapango.

Which port or airport does cargo for Soyapango clear through?

Cargo for Soyapango is routed via SAL air / Acajutla sea. Sea gateways for El Salvador are Acajutla; air gateways are SAL (San Salvador). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

What documents does Dirección General de Aduanas de El Salvador 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 (Health registration for food and cosmetics; conformity for regulated goods). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Soyapango?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 22–30 calendar days by sea versus 4–7 business days by air to the El Salvador 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.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Soyapango?

Yes. Delivery to a Soyapango address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Dirección General de Aduanas de El Salvador, 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.

## Other delivery cities in El Salvador

- [China to San Salvador](#)
- [China to Santa Ana](#)
- [China to San Miguel](#)
- [China to Acajutla](#)

[All El Salvador freight information →](#)

## References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for El Salvador 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 Dirección General de Aduanas de El Salvador or your broker before you ship.

- [Dirección General de Aduanas](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [World Bank — Logistics Performance Index](#)
- [ICC — Incoterms 2020 rules \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)
- [IPPC — ISPM 15 wood packaging standard](#)
- [WCO — Harmonized System nomenclature](#)

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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.

- [Solar Inverter New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Energy Storage System New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Building Materials Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Construction Hardware Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Plastic Products Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Ceramic Tableware Glass & Ceramic Products](#)
- [5G Equipment Telecom, Computing & Data Centre](#)
- [Headphones Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [Home Furniture Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Garden Products Furniture & Home Products](#)

- [Footwear Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Medical Furniture Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

## Checking the El Salvador duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Dirección General de Aduanas de El Salvador 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.

For a wider view of how importing into El Salvador actually works — documentation norms, inspection behavior, the paperwork that tends to hold shipments — the [U.S. ITA guide to El Salvador customs regulations](#) is a useful independent read alongside our own lane notes.

## Watch: the process behind this route

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

Bills of Lading 101 - What Is a Bill of Lading — Flexport. 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 Soyapango

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 El Salvador route page →](#)

## Freight Rates to El Salvador

⚙ 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 Soyapango, El Salvador: Transit Time, Duty & Clearance

Sea Freight from China to Soyapango, El Salvador. Transit 22–30 calendar days to the gateway, 3–8 days dwell, +1 day 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 Soyapango.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

## Soyapango by Mode

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

## Other Cities in El Salvador

- [China to San Salvador](#)
- [China to Santa Ana](#)
- [China to San Miguel](#)
- [China to Acajutla](#)

## Other Americas Destinations

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

## Route Page

- [El Salvador DDP route details →](#)

- [All freight destinations →](#)

## Customs clearance in El Salvador

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

[El Salvador clearance requirements →](#)

## Priced routes to El Salvador

- [Ningbo-Acajutla Sea Freight: Container Rates and Schedule](#)
- [Shanghai to Acajutla FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)
- [Yantian-Acajutla Sea Freight: Container Rates and Schedule](#)