

# Rail Freight from China to Astana

China Ocean Freight · [chinaoceanfreight.com/china-freight-to-kazakhstan/astana/rail-freight](https://chinaoceanfreight.com/china-freight-to-kazakhstan/astana/rail-freight)

1. [Home](#)
2. [Destinations](#)
3. [Kazakhstan](#)
4. [Astana](#)
5. Rail Freight

□ Rail Freight

China → Astana · via NQZ air / Dostyk rail · clearance by State Revenue Committee (EAEU common customs regime)



Cargo handling on the China–Astana lane.

For buyers shipping into Astana, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival. Astana is capital and government procurement center; cargo enters through NQZ air / Dostyk rail, and allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

Clearance itself is handled by State Revenue Committee (EAEU common customs regime), and typical dwell at the gateway runs 3–8 days.

## What the routing looks like in practice

Kazakhstan is the main rail gateway between China and the EAEU. Block trains cross at Khorgos-Altynkol or Dostyk-Alashankou and reach Almaty in roughly 5-8 days, or continue to Moscow and Europe. Because Kazakhstan shares the EAEU customs union with Russia, Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, clearing here can also serve onward EAEU delivery — but only if the paperwork is set up for it.

|                             |                                                             |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rail / overland routing     | Landlocked — Aktau on the Caspian for Middle Corridor cargo |
| Overland transit from China | 12-18 calendar days by block train                          |
| Gateway serving Astana      | NQZ air / Dostyk rail                                       |
| Inland leg to Astana        | +1 day from the gateway                                     |
| Typical clearance / dwell   | 3-8 days                                                    |
| Peak season to plan around  | Sep-Nov                                                     |

## What you will pay on arrival in Kazakhstan

State Revenue Committee (EAEU common customs regime) assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Astana consignees. Current regime: VAT 12%; EAEU common external tariff, typically 0-15%, with a de-minimis position of EUR 200 for personal parcels under EAEU rules.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: EAC conformity mark valid across the Eurasian Economic Union. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

**Restrictions and known friction points for Kazakhstan:** EAC certification is required for most regulated products across the union. Rail capacity tightens sharply in Q4 and before Chinese New Year. Sanctions screening applies to any cargo that may continue into Russia.



Handling on the NQZ air / Dostyk rail routing serving Astana.

## Pre-shipment checklist for Astana

- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Plan around the China-side windows too: Chinese New Year and Golden Week both compress capacity on the Kazakhstan lane.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: EAC conformity mark valid across the Eurasian Economic Union.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.
- Confirm the consignee in Astana can act as importer of record — State Revenue Committee (EAEU common customs regime) will not release cargo to an unregistered party.

## Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Astana take?

China to the Kazakhstan gateway is 12–18 calendar days by block train. On top of that, allow 3–8 days of clearance with State Revenue Committee (EAEU common customs regime) and a +1 day inland leg to Astana.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Astana?

State Revenue Committee (EAEU common customs regime) applies: VAT 12%; EAEU common external tariff, typically 0–15%. The de-minimis position is EUR 200 for personal parcels under EAEU rules. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Astana.

When is the busiest time on the China-Kazakhstan 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.

Which port or airport does cargo for Astana clear through?

Cargo for Astana is routed via NQZ air / Dostyk rail. Sea gateways for Kazakhstan are Landlocked — Aktau on the Caspian for Middle Corridor cargo; air gateways are ALA (Almaty), NQZ (Astana). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

What documents does State Revenue Committee (EAEU common customs regime) 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 (EAC conformity mark valid across the Eurasian Economic Union). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Astana?

Yes. Battery cargo by air follows IATA PI 965–970 depending on how the cells are packed, and moves on certified channels via ALA (Almaty), NQZ (Astana). Surcharges apply and the declaration has to be made before booking.

## Other delivery cities in Kazakhstan

- [China to Almaty](#)
- [China to Shymkent](#)
- [China to Karaganda](#)
- [China to Aktobe](#)
- [China to Atyrau](#)
- [China to Khorgos](#)

[All Kazakhstan freight information →](#)

## References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Kazakhstan 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 State Revenue Committee (EAEU common customs regime) or your broker before you ship.

- [State Revenue Committee](#)
- [Eurasian Economic Union common tariff](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [IPPC — ISPM 15 wood packaging standard](#)
- [WCO — Harmonized System nomenclature](#)
- [IMO — IMDG Code for dangerous goods by sea](#)

Page data last reviewed: 8 □ 2026.

## 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.

- [Wall Panels Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Corrugated Packaging Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)
- [Glass Packaging Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Electronic Switches Electronic Components & Semiconductors](#)
- [IoT Devices Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [Furniture Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Home Storage Products Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Fashion Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Laboratory Equipment Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)
- [Locks & Safes Fire, Safety & Traffic Products](#)
- [Salon Furniture Beauty, Personal Care & Wellness](#)
- [Pet Products Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

## Checking the Kazakhstan duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by State Revenue Committee (EAEU common customs regime) 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.

Rail consignments cross several customs territories in transit rather than only at the destination, so classification errors surface mid-corridor rather than at delivery. [ITC Market Access Map](#) is worth checking for the destination heading before the block train departs, because a correction en route is far slower than one made in China.

## Watch: the process behind this route

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

The Customs Clearance Process: A Comprehensive Guide — ShipERP by ERP Integrated Solutions. 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 Astana

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 Kazakhstan

📦 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.

Rail Freight to Astana, Kazakhstan: Transit Time, Duty & Clearance

Rail Freight from China to Astana, Kazakhstan. Transit 12–18 calendar days by block train 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 Astana.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

## Astana by Mode

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

## Other Cities in Kazakhstan

- [China to Almaty](#)
- [China to Shymkent](#)
- [China to Karaganda](#)
- [China to Aktobe](#)
- [China to Atyrau](#)
- [China to Khorgos](#)

## Other Central Asia Destinations

- [Shipping to Armenia](#)
- [Shipping to Azerbaijan](#)
- [Shipping to Georgia](#)
- [Shipping to Kyrgyzstan](#)
- [Shipping to Tajikistan](#)
- [Shipping to Turkmenistan](#)
- [Shipping to Uzbekistan](#)

## Customs clearance in Kazakhstan

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

[Kazakhstan clearance requirements →](#)