

Air Freight from China to Marsaxlokk

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➔ Air Freight

China → Marsaxlokk · via Malta Freeport sea · clearance by Maltese Customs Department (EU)



Cargo handling on the China-Marsaxlokk lane.

For buyers shipping into Marsaxlokk, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival. Marsaxlokk is the container terminal district; cargo enters through Malta Freeport sea, and the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

The clearing authority is Maltese Customs Department (EU). Historical dwell on this gateway is around 2-5 days, and it lengthens in Sep-Nov.

How this lane actually runs

Malta Freeport is one of the Mediterranean's largest transshipment hubs, so direct Asian calls are frequent — but much of that traffic is transshipment rather than local import. Local delivery volumes are small, which means LCL consolidation and feeder timing usually determine the door date rather than the mainline schedule.

Air gateways used	MLA (Malta International)
Air transit, China to gateway	4-6 business days
Gateway serving Marsaxlokk	Malta Freeport sea
Inland leg to Marsaxlokk	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	2-5 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov

Duty, tax and clearance into Marsaxlokk

Maltese Customs Department (EU) assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Marsaxlokk consignees. Current regime: Import VAT 18%; duty 0-12% under the EU TARIC, with a de-minimis position of EUR 150 for duty; VAT applies from the first euro.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: CE marking; IOSS registration for low-value B2C consignments. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Malta: Standard EU rules apply — CE marking, TARIC duty and IOSS for low-value B2C. Local LCL frequency is the practical constraint.



Handling on the Malta Freeport sea routing serving Marsaxlokk.

What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole 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.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Plan around the China-side windows too: Chinese New Year and Golden Week both compress capacity on the Malta lane.
- Check the de-minimis position (EUR 150 for duty; VAT applies from the first euro) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: CE marking; IOSS registration for low-value B2C consignments.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Marsaxlokk take?

China to the Malta gateway is 4–6 business days. On top of that, allow 2–5 days of clearance with Maltese Customs Department (EU) and a same-day inland leg to Marsaxlokk.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Marsaxlokk?

Maltese Customs Department (EU) applies: Import VAT 18%; duty 0–12% under the EU TARIC. The de-minimis position is EUR 150 for duty; VAT applies from the first euro. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Marsaxlokk.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Marsaxlokk?

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

When is the busiest time on the China–Malta 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 Marsaxlokk?

Yes. Delivery to a Marsaxlokk address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Maltese Customs Department (EU), 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.

What documents does Maltese Customs Department (EU) 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 (CE marking; IOSS registration for low-value B2C consignments). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

Other delivery cities in Malta

- [China to Valletta](#)
- [China to Birkirkara](#)
- [China to Mosta](#)
- [China to Sliema](#)

[All Malta freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Malta 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 Maltese Customs Department (EU) or your broker before you ship.

- [Maltese Customs Department](#)
- [EU TARIC tariff database](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [IMO — IMDG Code for dangerous goods by sea](#)
- [IATA — Lithium battery shipping guidance \(PI 965–970\)](#)
- [World Bank — Logistics Performance Index](#)

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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.

- [Brake Parts Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Ceramic Tiles Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Bathroom Products Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Engineering Plastics Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Ceramic Components Glass & Ceramic Products](#)
- [Data Center Equipment Telecom, Computing & Data Centre](#)
- [Home Appliances Home Appliances, HVAC & Commercial](#)
- [Laboratory Furniture Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Fabric Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Luggage Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Fire Protection Equipment Fire, Safety & Traffic Products](#)
- [Illuminated Signs Retail, Display & Commercial Fixtures](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Malta duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Maltese Customs Department (EU) 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.

On the air side, anything with a cell or a battery in it, plus liquids, powders, magnets and aerosols, is governed by [the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations](#). Those articles are not refused outright, but they need to be declared at booking so the shipment is built correctly — declaring them late is the single most common cause of an air consignment being offloaded.

Watch: the process behind this route

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

What Is Chargeable Weight in Air Freight? — Smart Logistics Network. 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 Marsaxlokk

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 Malta

✚ 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.

Marsaxlokk Air Freight, Malta: Cost, Transit & Customs

Air Freight to Marsaxlokk: 4–6 business days in transit, cleared by Maltese Customs Department (EU), same 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 Marsaxlokk.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Marsaxlokk by Mode

- [All modes — Marsaxlokk](#)
- ☐ [Sea Freight](#)

Other Cities in Malta

- [China to Valletta](#)
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Other Europe Destinations

- [Shipping to Albania](#)
- [Shipping to Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
- [Shipping to Cyprus](#)
- [Shipping to Iceland](#)
- [Shipping to Moldova](#)
- [Shipping to Montenegro](#)
- [Shipping to North Macedonia](#)
- [Shipping to Norway](#)

Customs clearance in Malta

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

[Malta clearance requirements →](#)