

Shipping from China to Marsaxlokk

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Europe

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



Cargo handling on the China-Marsaxlokk lane.

We move freight cargo from South China into Marsaxlokk through Malta Freeport sea. Marsaxlokk is the container terminal district, which shapes the kind of cargo that moves on this lane and how it should be packed.

Clearance itself is handled by Maltese Customs Department (EU), and typical dwell at the gateway runs 2-5 days.

Import duty and tax position for Marsaxlokk

Imports into Malta are cleared by Maltese Customs Department (EU). The headline position is: Import VAT 18%; duty 0-12% under the EU TARIC. The de-minimis threshold is 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.

Routing and transit on this lane

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
Sea gateways used	Malta Freeport (Marsaxlokk), Valletta
Sea transit, China to gateway	24–32 calendar 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



Handling on the Malta Freeport sea routing serving Marsaxlokk.

Before you book: Marsaxlokk checklist

- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Malta duty rate against it yourself.
- Confirm the consignee in Marsaxlokk can act as importer of record — Maltese Customs Department (EU) will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- 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.
- 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 Marsaxlokk?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
→ Air Freight	4-6 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
☐ Sea Freight	24-32 calendar days	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed

Transit shown is China departure to the Malta gateway and excludes the same-day inland leg to Marsaxlokk and 2-5 days of clearance.

Mode guides for Marsaxlokk

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

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Marsaxlokk take?

China to the Malta gateway is 4–6 business days by air, 24–32 calendar days by sea. 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.

Which port or airport does cargo for Marsaxlokk clear through?

Cargo for Marsaxlokk is routed via Malta Freeport sea. Sea gateways for Malta are Malta Freeport (Marsaxlokk), Valletta; air gateways are MLA (Malta International). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Marsaxlokk?

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.

What certification do I need for Malta?

For regulated goods, plan for: CE marking; IOSS registration for low-value B2C consignments. Missing conformity paperwork is the single most common cause of a hold, and in most cases it cannot be remedied once the cargo has arrived.

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.

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](#)

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.

- [Arts & Crafts Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Artificial Plants Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Direct to Consumer E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Fasteners Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Pressure Vessels Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Industrial Boilers General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Solar Panel New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Lithium Battery New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Bicycle Parts Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Wall Panels Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Corrugated Packaging Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)
- [Glass Packaging Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)

[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.

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 Marsaxlokk. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

Sea Freight from China: How to import from China to your country via Ocean Shipping — SINO Shipping. 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.

Shipping from China to Marsaxlokk, Malta: Cost & Transit

Shipping to Marsaxlokk: gateway Malta Freeport sea, same day inland after release, duty assessed by Maltese Customs Department (EU). Transit, documents and restrictions.

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](#)
- [✈ Air Freight](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight](#)

Other Cities in Malta

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

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 →](#)