

Sea Freight from China to Prilep

China Ocean Freight · chinaoceanfreight.com/china-freight-to-north-macedonia/prilep/sea-freight

1. [Home](#)
2. [Destinations](#)
3. [North Macedonia](#)
4. [Prilep](#)
5. Sea Freight

Sea Freight

China → Prilep · via SKP air / Thessaloniki transit · clearance by Customs Administration of North Macedonia



Cargo handling on the China-Prilep lane.

We move sea freight cargo from South China into Prilep through SKP air / Thessaloniki transit. Prilep is central manufacturing center, which shapes the kind of cargo that moves on this lane and how it should be packed.

On the destination side, Customs Administration of North Macedonia handles clearance; budget 3-8 days of dwell before the cargo is released.

Import duty and tax position for Prilep

Imports into North Macedonia are cleared by Customs Administration of North Macedonia. The headline position is: VAT 18%; customs duty 0-20%. The de-minimis threshold is EUR 45 for personal consignments.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Technical regulations aligned to EU rules for most product groups. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for North Macedonia: Greek or Albanian transit documentation is required. Free economic zones near Skopje offer duty relief for qualifying manufacturing inputs.

Routing and transit on this lane

Thessaloniki is the shortest sea gateway — roughly a half-day road leg to Skopje — which makes North Macedonia one of the easier landlocked Balkan markets to serve. Durrës in Albania is the alternative when Greek capacity tightens.

Sea gateways used	Landlocked — via Thessaloniki (Greece) or Durrës (Albania)
Sea transit, China to gateway	26–34 calendar days plus inland leg
Gateway serving Prilep	SKP air / Thessaloniki transit
Inland leg to Prilep	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	3–8 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep–Nov



Handling on the SKP air / Thessaloniki transit routing serving Prilep.

Pre-shipment checklist for Prilep

- Confirm the consignee in Prilep can act as importer of record — Customs Administration of North Macedonia will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Technical regulations aligned to EU rules for most product groups.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Prilep take?

China to the North Macedonia gateway is 26–34 calendar days plus inland leg. On top of that, allow 3–8 days of clearance with Customs Administration of North Macedonia and a +1 day inland leg to Prilep.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Prilep?

Customs Administration of North Macedonia applies: VAT 18%; customs duty 0–20%. The de-minimis position is EUR 45 for personal consignments. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Prilep.

What documents does Customs Administration of North Macedonia 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 (Technical regulations aligned to EU rules for most product groups). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

What certification do I need for North Macedonia?

For regulated goods, plan for: Technical regulations aligned to EU rules for most product groups. 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.

When is the busiest time on the China–North Macedonia 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.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Prilep?

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.

Other delivery cities in North Macedonia

- [China to Skopje](#)

- [China to Bitola](#)
- [China to Kumanovo](#)
- [China to Tetovo](#)

[All North Macedonia freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for North Macedonia 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 Customs Administration of North Macedonia or your broker before you ship.

- [Customs Administration of North Macedonia](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [ICC — Incoterms 2020 rules \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)
- [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.

- [Industrial Furnaces General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [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](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the North Macedonia duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Customs Administration of North Macedonia 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.

Most landed-cost surprises trace back to classification rather than freight. [the WCO Harmonized System](#) defines the heading structure every customs administration builds on, and [ITC Market Access Map](#) will show you the duty a given heading attracts in this destination.

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

Ocean Freight 101 - What Is LCL Ocean Freight — 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 Prilep

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 North Macedonia

☞ 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.

China to Prilep Sea Freight: Rates, Transit and Clearance

Moving cargo to Prilep by sea freight — 26–34 calendar days plus inland leg transit, 3–8 days port dwell, duty assessed by Customs Administration of North Macedonia.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Prilep by Mode

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

Other Cities in North Macedonia

- [China to Skopje](#)
- [China to Bitola](#)
- [China to Kumanovo](#)
- [China to Tetovo](#)

Other Europe Destinations

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

Customs clearance in North Macedonia

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

[North Macedonia clearance requirements →](#)