

Air Freight from China to Rawalpindi

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→ Air Freight

China → Rawalpindi · via ISB air / Karachi sea · clearance by Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue)



Cargo handling on the China–Rawalpindi lane.

We move air freight cargo from South China into Rawalpindi through ISB air / Karachi sea. Rawalpindi is twin city and northern distribution point, which shapes the kind of cargo that moves on this lane and how it should be packed.

The clearing authority is Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue). Historical dwell on this gateway is around 5–12 days, and it lengthens in Sep–Nov.

Import duty and tax position for Rawalpindi

Imports into Pakistan are cleared by Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue). The headline position is: Sales tax 18%; customs duty 3–20% plus additional customs duty and regulatory duty on many consumer lines; withholding income tax on

imports. The de-minimis threshold is No practical de-minimis.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: PSQCA standards mark for regulated goods; import against a bank contract or letter of credit for most commercial cargo. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Pakistan: Import payment normally has to route through a bank contract or LC, which constrains DDP structures. Regulatory duty and additional customs duty are revised frequently. Used goods and many consumer categories face import bans or heavy surcharges.

Routing and transit on this lane

Karachi handles the overwhelming majority of Pakistan's sea volume, with Port Qasim as the second option. The China-Pakistan FTA phase II gives meaningful duty relief on a long list of tariff lines, but only against a properly issued certificate of origin. Regulatory duty on consumer goods changes with each federal budget, so verify the current rate rather than reusing last year's landed-cost model.

Air gateways used	KHI (Karachi), LHE (Lahore), ISB (Islamabad)
Air transit, China to gateway	3-6 business days
Gateway serving Rawalpindi	ISB air / Karachi sea
Inland leg to Rawalpindi	+2 days from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	5-12 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov



Handling on the ISB air / Karachi sea routing serving Rawalpindi.

What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Pakistan duty rate against it yourself.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Confirm the consignee in Rawalpindi can act as importer of record — Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue) will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Check the de-minimis position (No practical de-minimis) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Rawalpindi take?

China to the Pakistan gateway is 3–6 business days. On top of that, allow 5–12 days of clearance with Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue) and a +2 days inland leg to Rawalpindi.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Rawalpindi?

Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue) applies: Sales tax 18%; customs duty 3–20% plus additional customs duty and regulatory duty on many consumer lines; withholding income tax on imports. The de-minimis position is No practical de-minimis. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Rawalpindi.

What certification do I need for Pakistan?

For regulated goods, plan for: PSQCA standards mark for regulated goods; import against a bank contract or letter of credit for most commercial cargo. 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 Rawalpindi?

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

Which port or airport does cargo for Rawalpindi clear through?

Cargo for Rawalpindi is routed via ISB air / Karachi sea. Sea gateways for Pakistan are Karachi (KICT/QICT), Port Qasim, Gwadar; air gateways are KHI (Karachi), LHE (Lahore), ISB (Islamabad). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

When is the busiest time on the China–Pakistan 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.

Other delivery cities in Pakistan

- [China to Port Qasim](#)
- [China to Karachi](#)
- [China to Lahore](#)
- [China to Islamabad](#)
- [China to Faisalabad](#)
- [China to Sialkot](#)
- [China to Multan](#)
- [China to Peshawar](#)
- [China to Gujranwala](#)
- [China to Quetta](#)

[All Pakistan freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Pakistan 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 Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue) or your broker before you ship.

- [Pakistan Customs — Federal Board of Revenue](#)
- [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.

- [Automotive Parts Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Prefabricated Building Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Plumbing Products Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Injection Molded Parts Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Art Ceramics Glass & Ceramic Products](#)
- [Base Station Equipment Telecom, Computing & Data Centre](#)
- [Electronic Accessories Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [Hotel Furniture Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Textiles Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Bags Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Medical Consumables Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)
- [Exhibition Display Equipment Retail, Display & Commercial Fixtures](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Pakistan duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue) 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.

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.

For a wider view of how importing into Pakistan actually works — documentation norms, inspection behavior, the paperwork that tends to hold shipments — the [U.S. ITA guide to Pakistan 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 Rawalpindi. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

4 Key Stages to US Customs Clearance — USA Customs Clearance. 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 Rawalpindi

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 Pakistan route page](#) →

Freight Rates to Pakistan

📦 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 Rawalpindi Air Freight: Rates, Transit and Clearance

Moving cargo to Rawalpindi by air freight — 3–6 business days transit, 5–12 days port dwell, duty assessed by Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue).

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry](#) →

Rawalpindi by Mode

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

Other Cities in Pakistan

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- [China to Karachi](#)
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- [China to Peshawar](#)

Other South Asia Destinations

- [Shipping to Bangladesh](#)
- [Shipping to India](#)
- [Shipping to Maldives](#)
- [Shipping to Nepal](#)
- [Shipping to Sri Lanka](#)

Route Page

- [Pakistan DDP route details →](#)
- [All freight destinations →](#)

Customs clearance in Pakistan

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

[Pakistan clearance requirements →](#)

Priced routes to Pakistan

- [Shanghai to Port Qasim Container Shipping — 20GP Rates](#)
- [Shekou to Karachi Container Shipping — 20GP Rates](#)
- [Shekou-Port Qasim Sea Freight: Container Rates and Schedule](#)
- [Shipping a Container from Shanghai to Karachi: Cost & Transit](#)