

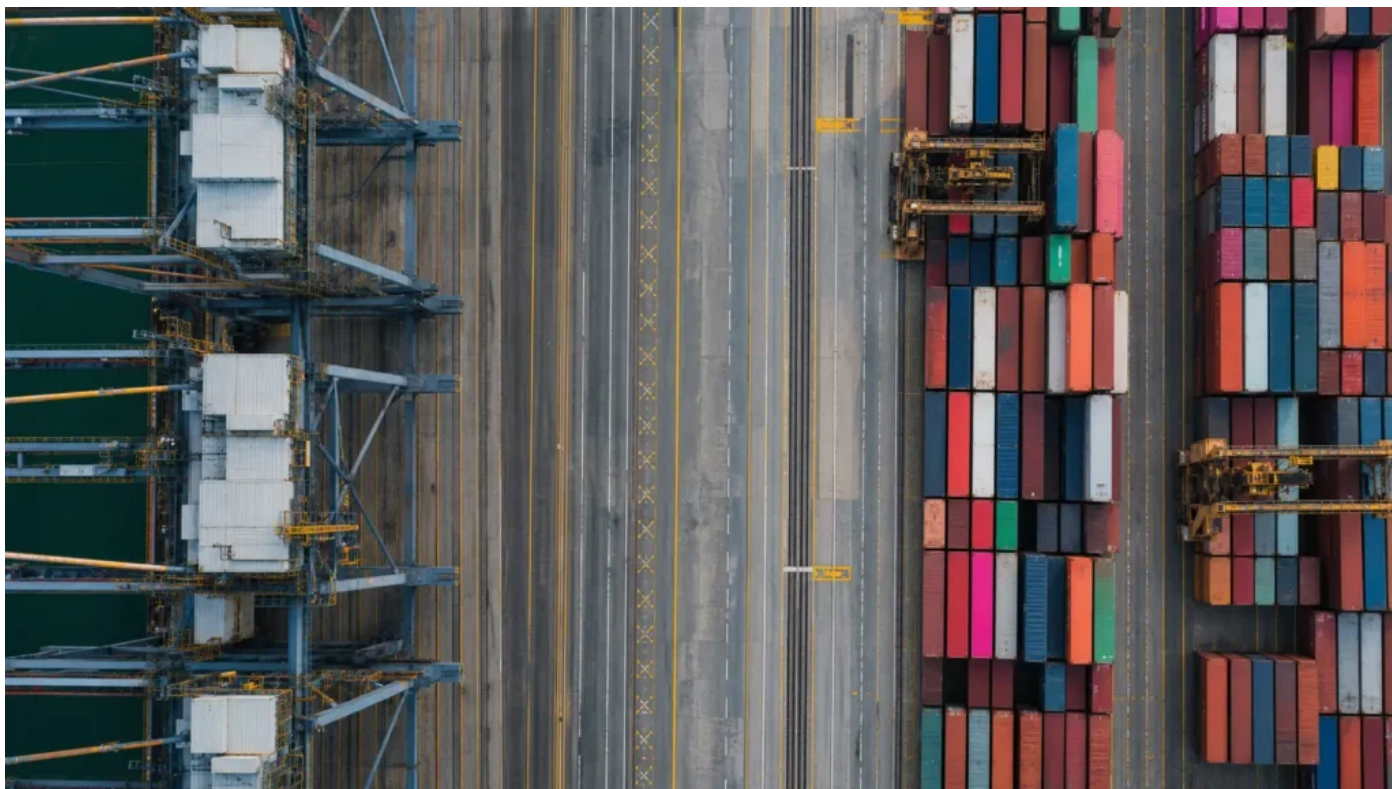
Sea Freight from China to Cebu

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China → Cebu · via CEB air / Cebu sea · clearance by Bureau of Customs (BOC)



Cargo handling on the China–Cebu lane.

Freight from China into Cebu clears through CEB air / Cebu sea. Cebu is Visayas commercial hub with direct international calls, and the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

The clearing authority is Bureau of Customs (BOC). Historical dwell on this gateway is around 4–9 days, and it lengthens in Sep–Nov.

Import duty and tax position for Cebu

Imports into Philippines are cleared by Bureau of Customs (BOC). The headline position is: VAT 12%; duty 0–30%, with ACFTA preference available on a Form E. The de-minimis threshold is PHP 10,000.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: BPS Import Commodity Clearance for regulated products; FDA license for food, cosmetics and devices; NTC for radio equipment. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Philippines: Consolidated 'balikbayan'-style mixed cargo attracts extra scrutiny. Used clothing is prohibited. Alert Orders and physical examination are common, so allow buffer days on any deadline-driven shipment.

What the routing looks like in practice

Manila port congestion is the defining risk on this lane — dwell can double during the Q4 retail build-up. Cebu and Davao are viable direct calls for Visayas and Mindanao consignees and often clear faster than Manila, so it is worth quoting the regional port rather than trucking from MICT.

Sea gateways used	Manila (MICT and South Harbor), Cebu, Davao
Sea transit, China to gateway	5-10 calendar days
Gateway serving Cebu	CEB air / Cebu sea
Inland leg to Cebu	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	4-9 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov



Handling on the CEB air / Cebu sea routing serving Cebu.

What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Check the de-minimis position (PHP 10,000) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: BPS Import Commodity Clearance for regulated products; FDA license for food, cosmetics and devices; NTC for radio equipment.
- Budget for the inland leg: same-day delivery beyond gateway clearance to reach Cebu.
- 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 Philippines duty rate against it yourself.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Cebu take?

China to the Philippines gateway is 5–10 calendar days. On top of that, allow 4–9 days of clearance with Bureau of Customs (BOC) and a same-day inland leg to Cebu.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Cebu?

Bureau of Customs (BOC) applies: VAT 12%; duty 0–30%, with ACFTA preference available on a Form E. The de-minimis position is PHP 10,000. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Cebu.

Which port or airport does cargo for Cebu clear through?

Cargo for Cebu is routed via CEB air / Cebu sea. Sea gateways for Philippines are Manila (MICT and South Harbor), Cebu, Davao; air gateways are MNL (Manila), CEB (Cebu), CRK (Clark). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

What certification do I need for Philippines?

For regulated goods, plan for: BPS Import Commodity Clearance for regulated products; FDA license for food, cosmetics and devices; NTC for radio equipment. 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 Cebu?

Yes. Battery cargo by sea moves under UN3480/UN3481 with an MSDS, and the dangerous-goods documentation is prepared as part of the booking into Manila (MICT and South Harbor), Cebu, Davao. Surcharges apply and space is more limited than for general cargo.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Cebu?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 5–10 calendar days by sea versus 3–5 business days by air to the Philippines gateway, before clearance and the same-day inland leg. The crossover point is normally somewhere between 100 and 300 kg depending on the density of your cargo.

Other delivery cities in Philippines

- [China to Subic Bay](#)
- [China to Manila](#)
- [China to Quezon City](#)
- [China to Cavite](#)
- [China to Laguna](#)
- [China to Davao](#)
- [China to Iloilo](#)
- [China to Bulacan](#)
- [China to Batangas](#)
- [China to Cagayan de Oro](#)
- [China to Pampanga](#)
- [China to Baguio](#)

[All Philippines freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Philippines 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 Bureau of Customs (BOC) or your broker before you ship.

- [Bureau of Customs](#)
- [Bureau of Product Standards](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [World Bank — Logistics Performance Index](#)
- [ICC — Incoterms 2020 rules \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)
- [IPPC — ISPM 15 wood packaging standard](#)
- [WCO — Harmonized System nomenclature](#)

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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.

- [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](#)
- [Outdoor Products Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Office Supplies Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Cross-border E-commerce E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Philippines duty position yourself

Every duty and tax figure quoted on this page is our working estimate for planning, not a ruling. The binding rate for your consignment is whatever [Philippine Bureau of Customs](#) applies against your declared HS code on the day of entry, and their published guidance is the source to check before you commit stock.

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.

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

Bills of Lading 101 - What Is a Bill of Lading — 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 Cebu

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 Philippines route page](#) →

Freight Rates to Philippines

✚ 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.

Cebu Sea Freight, Philippines: Cost, Transit & Customs

Sea Freight to Cebu: 5-10 calendar days in transit, cleared by Bureau of Customs (BOC), 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 Cebu.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry](#) →

Cebu by Mode

- [All modes — Cebu](#)
- [✈ Air Freight](#)

Other Cities in Philippines

- [China to Subic Bay](#)
- [China to Manila](#)
- [China to Quezon City](#)
- [China to Cavite](#)
- [China to Laguna](#)
- [China to Davao](#)

- [China to Iloilo](#)
- [China to Bulacan](#)

Other Asia Pacific Destinations

- [Shipping to Brunei](#)
- [Shipping to Cambodia](#)
- [Shipping to Hong Kong](#)
- [Shipping to Indonesia](#)
- [Shipping to Japan](#)
- [Shipping to Laos](#)
- [Shipping to Malaysia](#)
- [Shipping to Mongolia](#)

Route Page

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

Customs clearance in Philippines

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

[Philippines clearance requirements →](#)

Priced routes to Philippines

- [Shipping a Container from Shekou to Manila South: Cost & Transit](#)
- [Nansha to Cebu FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)
- [Xiamen to Cagayan de Oro Container Shipping — 20GP Rates](#)
- [Nansha to Davao FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)
- [Xiamen to Davao FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)
- [Nansha to Manila North Container Shipping — 20GP Rates](#)