

Air Freight from China to Manila

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→ Air Freight

China → Manila · via MNL air / MICT sea · clearance by Bureau of Customs (BOC)



Cargo handling on the China-Manila lane.

We move air freight cargo from South China into Manila through MNL air / MICT sea. Manila is capital region and the largest single import destination, which shapes the kind of cargo that moves on this lane and how it should be packed.

Clearance itself is handled by Bureau of Customs (BOC), and typical dwell at the gateway runs 4–9 days.

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.

Air gateways used	MNL (Manila), CEB (Cebu), CRK (Clark)
Air transit, China to gateway	3-5 business days
Gateway serving Manila	MNL air / MICT sea
Inland leg to Manila	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	4-9 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov

Duty, tax and clearance into Manila

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.



Handling on the MNL air / MICT sea routing serving Manila.

Before you book: Manila checklist

- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Philippines duty rate against it yourself.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Put the Manila delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Budget for the inland leg: same-day delivery beyond gateway clearance to reach Manila.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Manila take?

China to the Philippines gateway is 3–5 business days. On top of that, allow 4–9 days of clearance with Bureau of Customs (BOC) and a same-day inland leg to Manila.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Manila?

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 Manila.

What documents does Bureau of Customs (BOC) 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 (BPS Import Commodity Clearance for regulated products; FDA license for food, cosmetics and devices; NTC for radio equipment). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Manila?

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 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.

Which port or airport does cargo for Manila clear through?

Cargo for Manila is routed via MNL air / MICT 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.

Other delivery cities in Philippines

- [China to Subic Bay](#)

- [China to Quezon City](#)
- [China to Cavite](#)
- [China to Laguna](#)
- [China to Cebu](#)
- [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.

- [Headphones Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [Home Furniture Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Garden Products Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Footwear Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Medical Furniture Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)

- [Display Stands Retail, Display & Commercial Fixtures](#)
- [Toys Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Baby Products Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Bathroom Accessories Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [E-commerce Fulfilment E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Bearings Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Automation Equipment General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)

[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.

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.

If this is your first shipment into Philippines, the [Philippines Country Commercial Guide](#) covers the practical import environment in more depth than a rate page reasonably can, and it is written by a party with no stake in your booking.

Watch: the process behind this route

This guide covers routing and clearance for Manila. 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 Manila

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.

China to Manila Air Freight: Rates, Transit and Clearance

Moving cargo to Manila by air freight — 3-5 business days transit, 4-9 days port dwell, duty assessed by Bureau of Customs (BOC).

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Manila by Mode

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

Other Cities in Philippines

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- [China to Quezon City](#)
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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](#)