

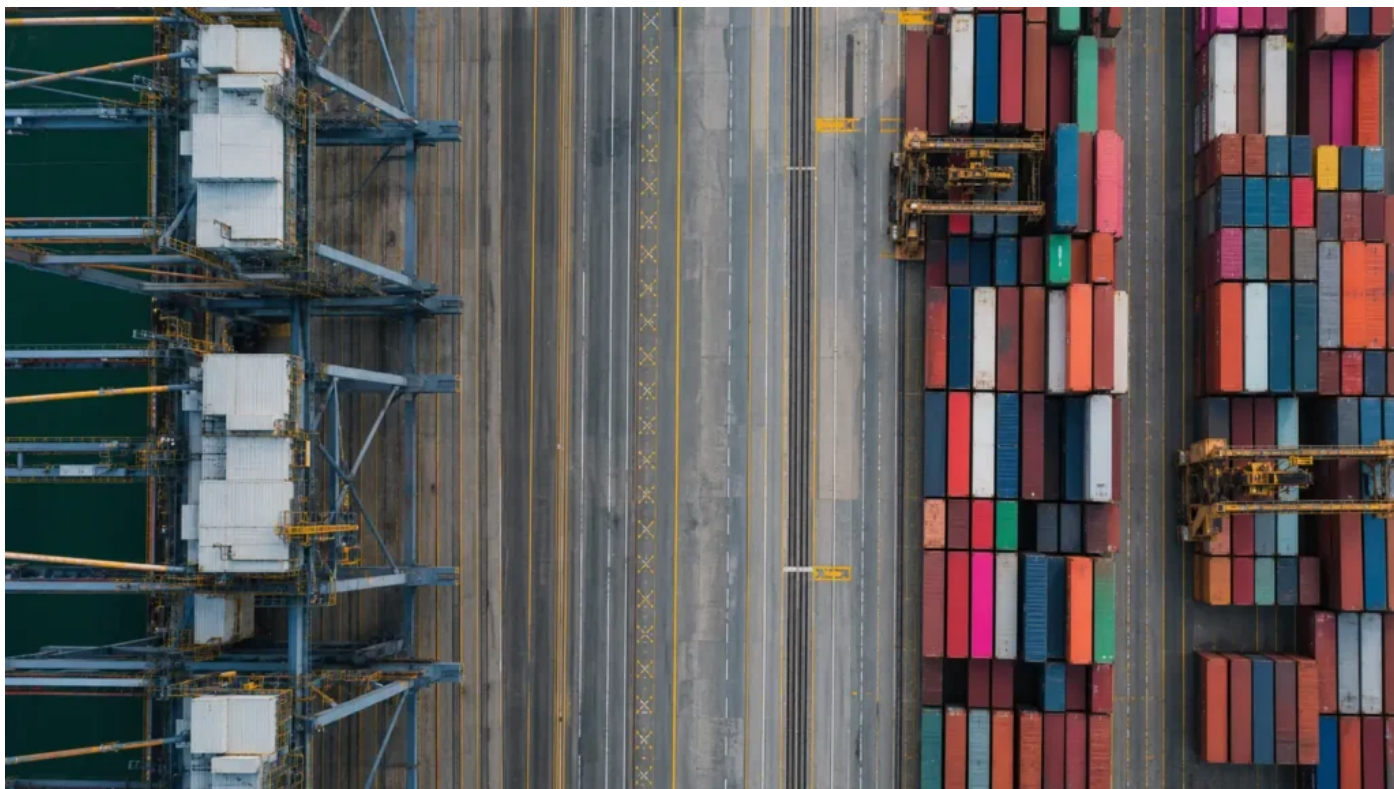
Sea Freight from China to Belgrade

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□ Sea Freight

China → Belgrade · via BEG air / Bar transit · clearance by Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia



Cargo handling on the China-Belgrade lane.

For buyers shipping into Belgrade, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival. Belgrade is capital and the country's logistics center; cargo enters through BEG air / Bar transit, and allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

Clearance itself is handled by Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia, and typical dwell at the gateway runs 3-8 days.

Import duty and tax position for Belgrade

Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Belgrade consignees. Current regime: VAT 20%; customs duty progressively reduced to 0% on most goods under the China-Serbia free trade agreement in force since

July 2024, with a de-minimis position of EUR 50 for personal consignments.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Serbian technical regulations largely aligned to EU rules; certificate of origin required to claim FTA preference. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Serbia: FTA preference requires a valid certificate of origin; without it standard duty applies. Transit through a neighboring country adds a bonded movement step. Rail from China via the northern corridor is an option for full loads.

What the routing looks like in practice

Serbia signed a free trade agreement with China that entered into force in July 2024, phasing most tariffs to zero — the first such agreement with a Central European country. That makes correct origin documentation unusually valuable here. Serbia is landlocked, so sea cargo lands at Bar, Rijeka, Thessaloniki or Constanța and moves inland under transit.

Sea gateways used	Landlocked — via Bar (Montenegro), Rijeka (Croatia), Thessaloniki (Greece) or Constanța (Romania)
Sea transit, China to gateway	28–38 calendar days plus inland leg
Gateway serving Belgrade	BEG air / Bar transit
Inland leg to Belgrade	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	3–8 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep–Nov



Handling on the BEG air / Bar transit routing serving Belgrade.

Pre-shipment checklist for Belgrade

- Confirm the consignee in Belgrade can act as importer of record — Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Serbian technical regulations largely aligned to EU rules; certificate of origin required to claim FTA preference.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Budget for the inland leg: +1 day beyond gateway clearance to reach Belgrade.
- Put the Belgrade delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Belgrade take?

China to the Serbia gateway is 28–38 calendar days plus inland leg. On top of that, allow 3–8 days of clearance with Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia and a +1 day inland leg to Belgrade.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Belgrade?

Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia applies: VAT 20%; customs duty progressively reduced to 0% on most goods under the China–Serbia free trade agreement in force since July 2024. The de-minimis position is EUR 50 for personal consignments. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Belgrade.

Which port or airport does cargo for Belgrade clear through?

Cargo for Belgrade is routed via BEG air / Bar transit. Sea gateways for Serbia are Landlocked — via Bar (Montenegro), Rijeka (Croatia), Thessaloniki (Greece) or Constanța (Romania); air gateways are BEG (Belgrade Nikola Tesla). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Belgrade?

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 Landlocked — via Bar (Montenegro), Rijeka (Croatia), Thessaloniki (Greece) or Constanța (Romania). Surcharges apply and space is more limited than for general cargo.

What documents does Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia 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 (Serbian technical regulations largely aligned to EU rules; certificate of origin required to claim FTA preference). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Belgrade?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 28–38 calendar days plus inland leg by sea versus 4–6 business days by air to the Serbia gateway, before clearance and the +1 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 Serbia

- [China to Novi Sad](#)
- [China to Nis](#)
- [China to Kragujevac](#)
- [China to Subotica](#)

[All Serbia freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Serbia 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 the Republic of Serbia or your broker before you ship.

- [Customs Administration of Serbia](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [WCO — Harmonized System nomenclature](#)
- [IMO — IMDG Code for dangerous goods by sea](#)
- [IATA — Lithium battery shipping guidance \(PI 965–970\)](#)

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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.

- [Home Textiles Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Medical Device Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)
- [Personal Protective Equipment Fire, Safety & Traffic Products](#)
- [Beauty Equipment Beauty, Personal Care & Wellness](#)
- [Inflatable Products Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Artificial Flowers Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Retail Products E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Sheet Metal Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Storage Tanks Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Electric Motors General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Agricultural Drones Agriculture & Livestock Equipment](#)
- [Wire & Cable New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Serbia duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia 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 Belgrade. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

Bill of Lading Explained (BOL) | Types, Components & Full Beginner Guide | Shipping Document — 10 Min For Supply Chain.

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 Belgrade

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 Serbia

✚ 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 Belgrade Sea Freight: Rates, Transit and Clearance

Moving cargo to Belgrade by sea freight — 28–38 calendar days plus inland leg transit, 3–8 days port dwell, duty assessed by Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Belgrade by Mode

- [All modes — Belgrade](#)
- [✈ Air Freight](#)
- [🚂 Rail Freight](#)

Other Cities in Serbia

- [China to Novi Sad](#)
- [China to Nis](#)
- [China to Kragujevac](#)
- [China to Subotica](#)

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 North Macedonia](#)

Customs clearance in Serbia

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

[Serbia clearance requirements](#) →