

# Sea Freight from China to Kharkiv

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1. [Home](#)
2. [Destinations](#)
3. [Ukraine](#)
4. [Kharkiv](#)
5. Sea Freight

☐ Sea Freight

China → Kharkiv · via Warsaw air transit / Gdansk sea transit · clearance by State Customs Service of Ukraine



Cargo handling on the China-Kharkiv lane.

For buyers shipping into Kharkiv, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival. Kharkiv is north-eastern industrial center; cargo enters through Warsaw air transit / Gdansk sea transit, and allow +3 days for the inland leg on top of clearance.

The clearing authority is State Customs Service of Ukraine. Historical dwell on this gateway is around 5–15 days, and it lengthens in Sep–Nov.

## Duty, tax and clearance into Kharkiv

State Customs Service of Ukraine assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Kharkiv consignees. Current regime: VAT 20%; customs duty 0-20%, with a de-minimis position of EUR 150 for personal consignments.

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

**Restrictions and known friction points for Ukraine:** No direct air service; all air cargo routes overland from a neighboring EU country. War-risk surcharges and insurance conditions apply. Confirm the current status of the Black Sea corridor before committing to a sea routing.

## Routing and transit on this lane

Ukrainian civil airspace is closed, so there is no direct air option — time-critical cargo flies to Warsaw, Rzeszów or Bucharest and completes by road. Sea cargo can move through the Black Sea corridor to Odesa, but many shippers still prefer Gdańsk or Constanța plus a truck leg for predictability. War-risk insurance and route conditions must be confirmed at the time of booking.

|                               |                                                                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sea gateways used             | Odesa, Chornomorsk and Pivdennyi — operating with wartime restrictions |
| Sea transit, China to gateway | 35-50 calendar days including the overland leg                         |
| Gateway serving Kharkiv       | Warsaw air transit / Gdansk sea transit                                |
| Inland leg to Kharkiv         | +3 days from the gateway                                               |
| Typical clearance / dwell     | 5-15 days                                                              |
| Peak season to plan around    | Sep-Nov                                                                |



Handling on the Warsaw air transit / Gdansk sea transit routing serving Kharkiv.

## 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.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Ukraine duty rate against it yourself.
- Confirm the consignee in Kharkiv can act as importer of record — State Customs Service of Ukraine 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.
- Put the Kharkiv delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Check the de-minimis position (EUR 150 for personal consignments) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.

## Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Kharkiv take?

China to the Ukraine gateway is 35–50 calendar days including the overland leg. On top of that, allow 5–15 days of clearance with State Customs Service of Ukraine and a +3 days inland leg to Kharkiv.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Kharkiv?

State Customs Service of Ukraine applies: VAT 20%; customs duty 0–20%. The de-minimis position is EUR 150 for personal consignments. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Kharkiv.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Kharkiv?

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 Odesa, Chornomorsk and Pivdennyi — operating with wartime restrictions. Surcharges apply and space is more limited than for general cargo.

What documents does State Customs Service of Ukraine 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 increasingly aligned to EU rules; UkrSEPRO conformity for some categories). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

What certification do I need for Ukraine?

For regulated goods, plan for: Technical regulations increasingly aligned to EU rules; UkrSEPRO conformity for some categories. 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.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Kharkiv?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 35–50 calendar days including the overland leg by sea versus Not available directly — air cargo transits Poland or Romania and completes by road by air to the Ukraine gateway, before clearance and the +3 days inland leg. The crossover point is normally somewhere between 100 and 300 kg depending on the density of your cargo.

## Other delivery cities in Ukraine

- [China to Kyiv](#)
- [China to Lviv](#)
- [China to Dnipro](#)
- [China to Odesa](#)
- [China to Vinnytsia](#)

[All Ukraine freight information →](#)

## References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Ukraine 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 State Customs Service of Ukraine or your broker before you ship.

- [State Customs Service of Ukraine](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [IATA — Lithium battery shipping guidance \(PI 965–970\)](#)
- [World Bank — Logistics Performance Index](#)
- [ICC — Incoterms 2020 rules \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)
- [IPPC — ISPM 15 wood packaging standard](#)

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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 Glass Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Doors & Windows Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Paper Packaging Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)
- [Packaging Materials Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Connectors Electronic Components & Semiconductors](#)
- [Consumer Electronics Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [Air Conditioning Equipment Home Appliances, HVAC & Commercial](#)
- [Kitchenware Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [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](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

## Checking the Ukraine duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by State Customs Service of Ukraine 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.

Classification drives everything downstream: the same carton can attract very different duty depending on the heading it lands in, and the structure those headings come from is [the World Customs Organization Harmonized System](#). If your product sits near a boundary between two headings, resolve it before shipping rather than at the border.

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 Ukraine actually works — documentation norms, inspection behavior, the paperwork that tends to hold shipments — the [U.S. ITA guide to Ukraine 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 Kharkiv. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

FCL vs LCL Shipping: When to Switch (Break-Even Point Explained) — Max Antonov. 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 Kharkiv

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 Ukraine route page](#) →

## Freight Rates to Ukraine

📦 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.

Kharkiv Sea Freight, Ukraine: Cost, Transit & Customs

Sea Freight to Kharkiv: 35-50 calendar days including the overland leg in transit, cleared by State Customs Service of Ukraine, +3 days 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 Kharkiv.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry](#) →

## Kharkiv by Mode

- [All modes — Kharkiv](#)
- ☐ [Rail Freight](#)

## Other Cities in Ukraine

- [China to Kyiv](#)
- [China to Lviv](#)
- [China to Dnipro](#)
- [China to Odesa](#)
- [China to Vinnytsia](#)

## 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](#)

## Route Page

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

## Customs clearance in Ukraine

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

[Ukraine clearance requirements →](#)

## Priced routes to Ukraine

- [Ningbo to Odesa Container Shipping — 20GP Rates](#)
- [Shanghai to Odesa FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)