

Sea Freight from China to Ho Chi Minh City

China Ocean Freight · chinaoceanfreight.com/china-freight-to-vietnam/ho-chi-minh-city/sea-freight

1. [Home](#)
2. [Destinations](#)
3. [Vietnam](#)
4. [Ho Chi Minh City](#)
5. [Sea Freight](#)

□□ Sea Freight

China → Ho Chi Minh City · via SGN air / Cat Lai sea · clearance by General Department of Vietnam Customs (Tổng cục Hải quan)



Cargo handling on the China-Ho Chi Minh City lane.

We move sea freight cargo from South China into Ho Chi Minh City through SGN air / Cat Lai sea. Ho Chi Minh City is commercial capital and largest consumer market, which shapes the kind of cargo that moves on this lane and how it should be packed.

The clearing authority is General Department of Vietnam Customs (Tổng cục Hải quan). Historical dwell on this gateway is around 2-5 days, and it lengthens in Sep-Nov.

Import duty and tax position for Ho Chi Minh City

Imports into Vietnam are cleared by General Department of Vietnam Customs (Tổng cục Hải quan). The headline position is: VAT 8-10%; duty 0-35%, with 0% available on most tariff lines under ACFTA/RCEP with a valid Form E. The de-minimis threshold is VND

1,000,000 (roughly USD 40) on express parcels.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Form E certificate of origin to claim ACFTA duty relief; MIC/Circular 04 type approval for radio equipment; energy-efficiency labeling for appliances. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Vietnam: Used machinery is subject to Decision 18/2019 age limits. Cosmetics need a product announcement filed by the consignee. Duty relief under Form E is only granted if the origin document matches the invoice exactly — a very common cause of held shipments.

Routing and transit on this lane

Vietnam is the shortest deep-sea lane out of South China — Shekou to Hai Phong is often 3–5 days. Northern Vietnam is also served overland through the Youyi Guan (Pingxiang) and Mong Cai crossings, which suits LCL and urgent replenishment for the Bac Ninh and Bac Giang electronics cluster.

Sea gateways used	Hai Phong, Cat Lai (Ho Chi Minh City), Cai Mep–Thi Vai
Sea transit, China to gateway	3–7 calendar days
Gateway serving Ho Chi Minh City	SGN air / Cat Lai sea
Inland leg to Ho Chi Minh City	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	2–5 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep–Nov



Handling on the SGN air / Cat Lai sea routing serving Ho Chi Minh City.

Pre-shipment checklist for Ho Chi Minh City

- Confirm the consignee in Ho Chi Minh City can act as importer of record — General Department of Vietnam Customs (Tổng cục Hải quan) will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Put the Ho Chi Minh City delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Vietnam duty rate against it yourself.
- 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: Form E certificate of origin to claim ACFTA duty relief; MIC/Circular 04 type approval for radio equipment; energy-efficiency labeling for appliances.
- Check the de-minimis position (VND 1,000,000 (roughly USD 40) on express parcels) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Ho Chi Minh City take?

China to the Vietnam gateway is 3–7 calendar days. On top of that, allow 2–5 days of clearance with General Department of Vietnam Customs (Tổng cục Hải quan) and a same-day inland leg to Ho Chi Minh City.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Ho Chi Minh City?

General Department of Vietnam Customs (Tổng cục Hải quan) applies: VAT 8–10%; duty 0–35%, with 0% available on most tariff lines under ACFTA/RCEP with a valid Form E. The de-minimis position is VND 1,000,000 (roughly USD 40) on express parcels. Under

a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Ho Chi Minh City.

Which port or airport does cargo for Ho Chi Minh City clear through?

Cargo for Ho Chi Minh City is routed via SGN air / Cat Lai sea. Sea gateways for Vietnam are Hai Phong, Cat Lai (Ho Chi Minh City), Cai Mep-Thi Vai; air gateways are SGN (Ho Chi Minh City), HAN (Hanoi), DAD (Da Nang). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Ho Chi Minh City?

Yes. Delivery to a Ho Chi Minh City address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to General Department of Vietnam Customs (Tổng cục Hải quan), and the same-day inland leg. Confirm whether your consignee wants the goods at a warehouse, a marketplace fulfillment center or a shop front, because the last-mile requirement differs.

What certification do I need for Vietnam?

For regulated goods, plan for: Form E certificate of origin to claim ACFTA duty relief; MIC/Circular 04 type approval for radio equipment; energy-efficiency labeling for appliances. 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.

What documents does General Department of Vietnam Customs (Tổng cục Hải quan) 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 (Form E certificate of origin to claim ACFTA duty relief; MIC/Circular 04 type approval for radio equipment; energy-efficiency labeling for appliances). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

Other delivery cities in Vietnam

- [China to Cai Mep](#)
- [China to Qui Nhon](#)
- [China to Hanoi](#)
- [China to Hai Phong](#)
- [China to Da Nang](#)
- [China to Binh Duong](#)
- [China to Dong Nai](#)
- [China to Bac Ninh](#)
- [China to Bac Giang](#)
- [China to Can Tho](#)
- [China to Nha Trang](#)
- [China to Hue](#)

[All Vietnam freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Vietnam 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 General Department of Vietnam Customs (Tổng cục Hải quan) or your broker before you ship.

- [General Department of Vietnam Customs](#)
- [Ministry of Industry and Trade](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [IPPC — ISPM 15 wood packaging standard](#)
- [WCO — Harmonized System nomenclature](#)
- [IMO — IMDG Code for dangerous goods by sea](#)

Page data last reviewed: 8 2026.

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.

- [Amusement Equipment Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Gifts Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Amazon FBA E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Metal Fabrication Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Cutting Tools Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Compressors General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Automated Storage Equipment Construction, Mining & Material Handling](#)
- [Electrical Cabinets New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Automotive Glass Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Doors & Windows Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Paper Packaging Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)
- [Packaging Materials Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Vietnam duty position yourself

Treat the landed-cost numbers here as a planning baseline. [General Department of Vietnam Customs](#) sets the rate that actually gets charged, assessed against your HS classification at the moment of clearance, so their own guidance is worth reading before a large order.

If you want to sanity-check a duty figure yourself, start from the heading rather than the product name — [the WCO Harmonized System](#) is the underlying nomenclature, and [the WTO Tariff & Trade Data portal](#) holds the applied rates by country pair.

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.

On the origin side, export declaration and any commodity inspection requirement fall under [China Customs \(GACC\)](#); we handle that filing as part of the service, but the requirement is theirs, not ours.

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

What Is CBM? Sea Freight Volume Explained (Calculate Shipping Cost Fast!) — DDPCHAIN. 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 Ho Chi Minh City

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 Vietnam route page](#) →

Freight Rates to Vietnam

📦 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 Ho Chi Minh City Sea Freight: Rates, Transit and Clearance

Moving cargo to Ho Chi Minh City by sea freight — 3–7 calendar days transit, 2–5 days port dwell, duty assessed by General Department of Vietnam Customs (Tổng cục Hải quan).

Get a Quote

Send the cargo details and we respond within one business day with a full DDP figure for Ho Chi Minh City.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Ho Chi Minh City by Mode

- [All modes — Ho Chi Minh City](#)
- [→ Air Freight](#)

Other Cities in Vietnam

- [China to Cai Mep](#)
- [China to Qui Nhon](#)
- [China to Hanoi](#)
- [China to Hai Phong](#)
- [China to Da Nang](#)
- [China to Binh Duong](#)
- [China to Dong Nai](#)
- [China to Bac Ninh](#)

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

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

Customs clearance in Vietnam

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

[Vietnam clearance requirements →](#)

Priced routes to Vietnam

- [Shekou to Qui Nhon FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)
- [Ship Nansha to Qui Nhon — FCL Container Cost from China](#)
- [Ship Shekou to Da Nang — FCL Container Cost from China](#)
- [Ship Shekou to Hai Phong — FCL Container Cost from China](#)
- [Ship Yantian to Cai Mep — FCL Container Cost from China](#)
- [Shipping a Container from Nansha to Cai Mep: Cost & Transit](#)