

China Freight Forwarding Service

Ship from China to the UK

A practical route guide for UK importers comparing sea freight, air freight, LCL/FCL, door-to-door, customs, EORI, VAT and delivery planning.

Sea Freight

Air Freight

Door-to-Door

Customs & VAT

Get a China to UK Freight Quote



Route Snapshot: Key Decisions

Importers need more than a freight rate — they need a route plan that matches cargo, customs setup and final UK delivery.

Fastest

Express / Air

2–8 days planning range

Most economical

Sea Freight

25–45 days planning range

Flexible volume

LCL

Pay by CBM / W-M

Door delivery

Door-to-Door

DAP / DDP reviewed

Buyer questions this page answers

- Which method fits my shipment?
- What will total logistics cost and lead time be?
- What UK customs setup do I need?

Winsail route planning value

- Supplier pickup and consolidation
- Freight + UK gateway comparison
- Customs / DDP feasibility review

Cost & Transit-Time Planning

Use planning ranges to qualify the inquiry, then confirm the actual quote with cargo details, route and UK delivery conditions.

Express

USD 6–12/kg

2–7 days

Air Freight

USD 4.5–9/kg

5–8 days

LCL Sea

USD 45–160/CBM

28–45 days

FCL Sea

USD 1.7k–5k+

25–40+ days

Door-to-Door

Shipment-specific

Mode dependent

Cost drivers to confirm before quoting

- Product / HS code
- Cargo value / weight / CBM
- Supplier city / UK postcode
- Container size / Incoterm
- Battery / dangerous-goods status

Note: market ranges are estimates only. Actual rates and transit times vary with carrier capacity, season, routing, customs checks, destination charges and final delivery scope.

Best Shipping Methods for the UK

Choose by cargo volume, urgency, delivery setup and final UK postcode.



01 Air Freight

Urgent commercial cargo; typically 5-8 days.
Charged by chargeable weight.

02 Sea Freight

Larger, cost-sensitive cargo; FCL about 25-40+ days
and LCL about 28-45+ days.

03 Express Courier

Samples and small urgent parcels; often about 2-7 days
depending on service and customs.

04 Door-to-Door

Coordinated UK delivery. DDP requires importer, VAT
and customs-representation review.

Key message: choose by cargo volume, urgency and final postcode. Door-to-door is practical; DDP remains conditional.

UK Customs, EORI, VAT & Import Documents

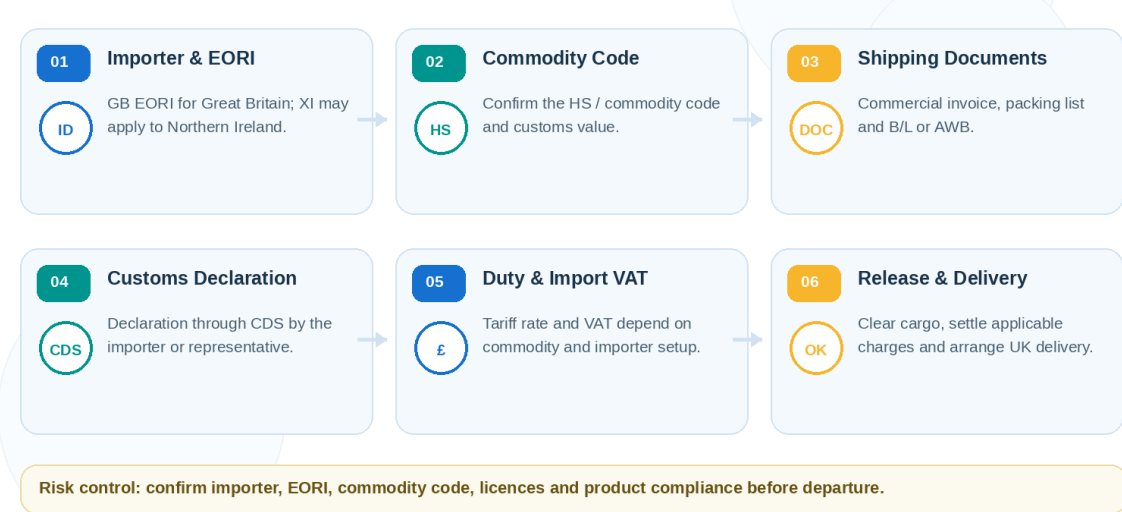
Importer setup and product compliance matter as much as the freight booking.

Documents & details to prepare

- Commercial invoice and packing list
- Bill of lading or air waybill
- GB EORI; XI may apply to Northern Ireland
- Accurate commodity code and customs value
- Licences / product documents if required
- Customs representative details

UK IMPORT CLEARANCE

Prepare the importer, documents and tax treatment before cargo leaves China.



Risk control: confirm importer, EORI, commodity code, licences and product compliance before cargo leaves China.

DDP & Door-to-Door: Conditional Review

UK door delivery is practical; DDP needs the right importer, VAT and customs representation structure.



DDP / door-delivery checklist

- Product name and intended use
- HS / commodity code if available
- Cargo value, invoice and packing list
- Weight, CBM and cargo dimensions
- Importer, EORI and VAT setup
- UK postcode and delivery access

DDP may be available for suitable cargo after importer structure, VAT treatment, customs representation and final delivery scope are confirmed.

Ports, Airports & Inland Delivery Areas

Gateway choice affects freight cost, destination charges, transit time and inland delivery.



Route logic

- Felixstowe — East / Midlands / South East
- London Gateway — London / South East / Midlands
- Southampton — South / Midlands
- Heathrow — primary air gateway
- East Midlands / Manchester — cargo + northern distribution

Final postcode can change the best gateway.

Compare international freight + destination charges + inland haulage - not the gateway alone.

Cargo-Specific & Project Cargo Considerations

Cargo type changes the freight method, documentation, packaging and carrier-acceptance risk.

Electronics

compliance · value · batteries

Lithium Batteries

UN38.3 · DG review · carrier approval

Machinery

dimensions · lifting · securing

Furniture

high CBM · protection · 40HC

Auto Parts

exact description · classification

Consumer Goods

volume · labelling · inventory timing

Project cargo needs dimensions, weight, lifting points, packing method, cargo photos and UK site-access details.

Controlled food, plant or animal-origin cargo may require BCP routing and pre-shipment checks.

Winsail Operating Process & Risk Reduction

Winsail's value is supplier coordination, accurate shipment data and risk control — not only freight booking.



Common delay risks

- Vague invoice
- Missing EORI
- Wrong HS code
- Undeclared battery / DG
- Site-access issue
- DDP not confirmed

Operational message

- Accurate dimensions and weight
- Correct documents and HS / tax setup
- Clear UK delivery details and access

Get a China to UK Freight Quote

Send your cargo details and Winsail will compare sea freight, air freight, express, LCL/FCL and suitable door-to-door options based on your timeline and UK destination.

Quote checklist

- Cargo name, dimensions, weight and CBM
- Supplier city, UK postcode and cargo value
- Battery / DG status and importer-EORI setup

Request a Shipping Quote



overseas.01@winsaillogistics.com

WhatsApp: +86 15521386355 | <https://winsaillogistics.com/>

Prepared for UK importers sourcing from China