

Ship from China to Germany

A practical route guide for German importers comparing sea freight, air freight, rail freight, customs, EORI, VAT, DDP and inland delivery planning.

[Sea Freight](#)[Air Freight](#)[Rail Freight](#)[Customs & VAT](#)[Get a China to Germany 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 German delivery.

Fastest

Express / Air

3–8 days planning range

Most economical

Sea Freight

28–45 days planning range

Flexible inland

Rail Freight

14–22 days terminal-to-terminal

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 Germany / EU import setup do I need?

Winsail route planning value

- Supplier pickup and consolidation
- Sea / air / rail 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 German delivery conditions.

Express

USD 6–12/kg

3–7 days

Air Freight

USD 4.3–6.5/kg

5–8 days

Rail Freight

USD 200+/CBM*

14–22 days

LCL Sea

USD 45–100+/CBM

32–45 days

FCL Sea

USD 2.6k–5k+

28–40 days

Cost drivers to confirm before quoting

- Product / HS code
- Cargo value / weight / CBM
- Supplier city / Germany postcode
- Container size / Incoterm
- Battery / DG / compliance status

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

Best Shipping Methods for Germany

Choose by cargo volume, urgency, value and final German postcode.

01 AIR FREIGHT



• 5-8 days • Chargeable weight • Urgent cargo

02 SEA FREIGHT



• FCL 28-40 days • LCL 32-45 days • Cost-efficient

03 RAIL FREIGHT



• 14-22 days • Inland Germany • Mid-speed route

04 EXPRESS COURIER



• 3-7 days • Small shipments • Door delivery

01 Air Freight

Electronics, spare parts and urgent cargo; typically 5-8 days.
Charged by chargeable weight.

02 Sea Freight

Larger, cost-sensitive cargo; FCL about 28-40 days
and LCL about 32-45 days.

03 Rail Freight

Mid-speed inland cargo; often about 14-22 days
terminal-to-terminal.

04 Express Courier

Samples and small urgent parcels; often about 3-7 days
depending on service and customs.

Key message: compare sea, air and rail for inland Germany. DDP is a delivery arrangement, not a transport mode.

Germany 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, air waybill or rail document
- EORI and importer / declarant details
- Accurate HS / TARIC code and customs value
- Incoterm, origin and duty / VAT data
- Product compliance documents if required

01 Importer & EORI

Confirm Importer structure and EORI details.

02 HS / TARIC Code

Classify the product and check EU measures.

03 Shipping Documents

Invoice, packing list and transport document.

04 Customs Declaration

Importer or representative submits the entry.

05 Duty & Import VAT

Duty is product-specific; VAT is usually 19%.

06 Release & Delivery

After clearance, arrange inland delivery.

Risk control: confirm importer, EORI, TARIC, VAT and product compliance before departure.

Risk control: confirm importer, EORI, TARIC, VAT and product compliance before cargo leaves China.

DDP & Door-to-Door: Conditional Review

Germany door delivery is practical; DDP depends on importer, EORI, VAT, product compliance and customs structure.

01 CHINA PICKUP



Supplier / warehouse collection

02 INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT



Sea, air or rail as agreed

03 CUSTOMS & IMPORT SETUP



Importer · EORI · duty / VAT

04 FINAL DELIVERY



Confirmed German postcode

DDP / door-delivery checklist

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

DDP may be available for suitable cargo after importer structure, tax treatment, compliance requirements and final delivery scope are confirmed.

Ports, Airports & Inland Delivery Areas

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

SEAPORTS



**Hamburg
Bremerhaven**

Containers · Industrial cargo

AIRPORTS



**Frankfurt · Munich
Cologne/Bonn · Leipzig**

Air cargo · express

RAIL HUB



Duisburg

China-Europe rail · Rhine-Ruhr

INLAND DELIVERY



**Rhine-Ruhr · Frankfurt
Stuttgart · Munich**

Final-mile planning by postcode

Route logic

- Hamburg — main container gateway / northern Germany
- Bremerhaven — containers / automotive / northwest
- Frankfurt — primary general air cargo gateway
- Cologne/Bonn & Leipzig/Halle — express cargo networks
- Duisburg — China-Europe rail / Rhine-Ruhr
- Munich — southern Germany / Bavaria

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, product compliance, packaging and carrier-acceptance risk.

Electronics

CE / RoHS · value · batteries

Lithium Batteries

UN38.3 · DG review · carrier approval

Machinery

dimensions · lifting · compliance

Auto Parts

exact description · classification

Consumer Goods

GPSR · labelling · packaging

CBAM Goods

TARIC · importer obligations

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

Regulated goods may require CE, GPSR, WEEE, packaging or CBAM checks before booking.

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
- Wrong HS / TARIC code
- Missing EORI / importer info
- Undeclared battery / DG
- Product compliance gaps
- DDP not confirmed

Operational message

- Accurate weight and dimensions
- Correct documents and EU import setup
- Clear German postcode and delivery access

Get a China to Germany Freight Quote

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

Quote checklist

- Cargo name, dimensions, weight and CBM
- Supplier city, Germany postcode and cargo value
- HS / TARIC, battery / DG and importer-EORI setup

Request a Shipping Quote



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Prepared for German importers sourcing from China