

Title: Ocean Freight vs. Air Freight: Choosing the Right Mode for Your Cargo

Keywords: ocean freight, sea freight, air freight cargo

When you are looking to send things from one location to the next, similar to items you purchase on the web or things for your business, you have various choices for how they can reach you. There are two familiar ways: ocean cargo and air cargo. It is like picking between a big ship and a quick airplane to transport your stuff.

Each of these has its advantages and drawbacks. In this article, we'll assist you with understanding the primary distinctions between **ocean freight** and **air freight** so you can pick the correct method for moving your cargo. Whether you are searching for more affordable and pocket-friendly options or need your things to show up rapidly, we will take care of you!

Understanding Air Freight: Pros and Cons

When the cargo is sent from one destination to another via air with the help of an air carrier, it is called **air freight**. The routes followed by the air carriers in the air are the same as the passengers and commercial planes. The products ready to be shipped are packed in boxes and loaded on the plane.



Pros of Air Freight

There are said to be three main advantages of this carrier:

- Speedy Transport

It is the quickest mode of transport for both cargo and passengers. The delivery is mostly done in 24 to 48 hours, which is not possible in any other mode of transportation. It is a pro to ship perishable goods in time.

- Convenient Mode

It is comparatively a convenient mode of freight to transport cargo. Air routes are connected to most parts of the world that we cannot reach by truck or rail.

- Reliability

The shipments loaded in air cargo can be tracked easily, making it a reliable mode. While in ocean cargo, you will not get any record of the cargo loading and unloading in the ports. This makes business deals easier by shipping the goods from one country to another.

Cons of Air Freight

There are also some disadvantages to consider:

- Expensive Charges

Since it is the fastest mode, it comes with a high cost. In comparison to any other mode of transport, it is the most expensive one due to its reliability, convenience, and speed.

- Limited Carrying Capacity

Every aircraft has a limited packing capacity above which it will not accept goods or charge more money. However, the containers of **air freight cargo** have many restrictions and policies on their shape and size of cargo.

- Weather Conditions

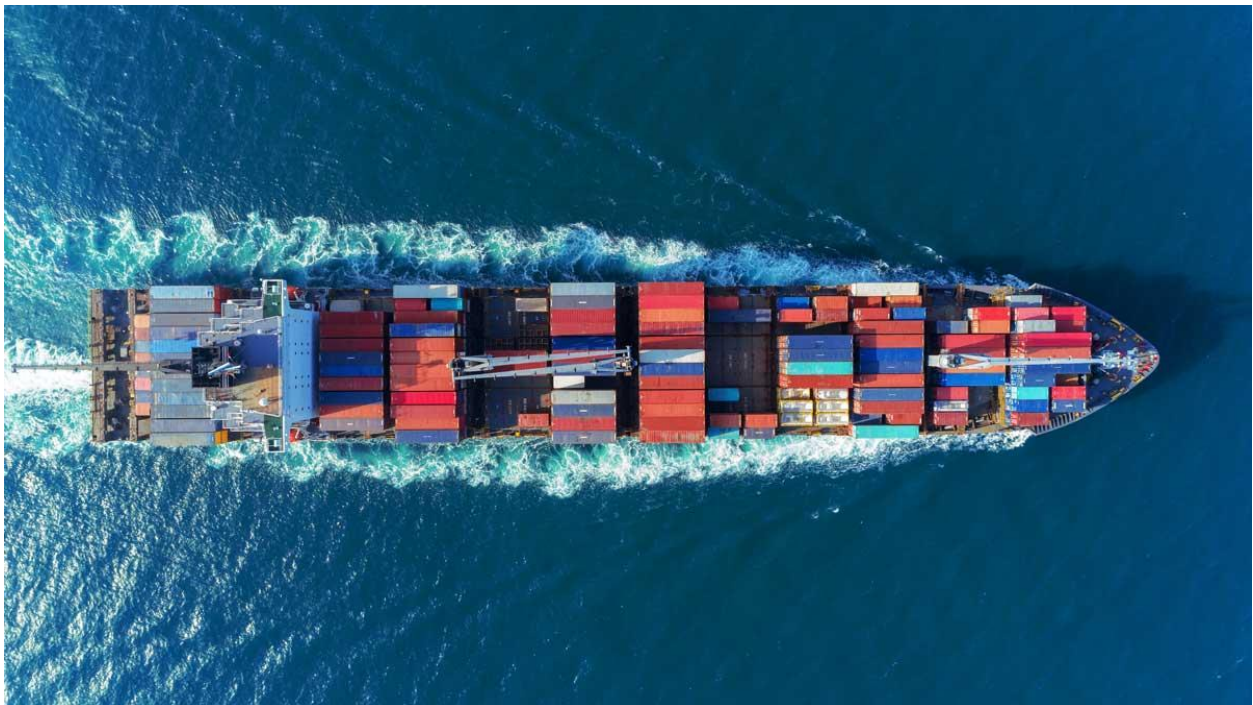
The [air freight](#) can be delayed or canceled due to harsh weather conditions. Then the shipper can ship the cargo after the weather condition is normal. However, it is also true that every mode of transport can be delayed due to harsh weather conditions.

- Pollution

Did you know an airplane releases 44 times more CO₂ than a ship carrying more cargo to the same destination? However, the airways are not considered by most companies as it contributes to air pollution.

Understanding Ocean Freight: Pros and Cons

It is the mode of transport that ships in bulk heavy cargo from one port to another via water. It is the most cost-effective way however does not result in speedy delivery. Most businesses consider this mode of transport as it is eco-friendly as compared to other carriers. Approximately 90% of international imports and exports are done through seaports.



Pros of Ocean Freight

The advantages of shipping your goods via waterways:

- Less Charge

Ocean freight is considered to be the cheapest mode in comparison to air, land, or rail carriers. One can easily afford to ship their goods from one country to another. It is considered to be economically manageable for bulky goods.

- **Bulky Cargo**

As we all know airplane freights have so many restrictions when it comes to the size of cargo. But, it is not the same in the case of **sea freight**. Customers can ship any size or shape of goods to any part of the world at a cheap cost.

- **International Trading of Goods**

Even if air cargo is the fastest mode, most international trade business is dependent upon the ship freight. This is due to the affordable charges and transportation of bulkier goods through ocean carriers.

- **Low Maintenance Cost**

Maintenance cost in water carriers is quite cheaper as compared to any other mode. It is the factor that makes shipping goods through these carriers relatively cheaper.

- **Less Pollution**

Ships consume less fuel in comparison to airplanes and thus cause less pollution. Large business organizations that encourage eco-friendly goals prefer ocean carriers to ship their goods.

Cons of Ocean Freight

Before shipping your goods by water, know the disadvantages that exist:

- **Infrastructure Facilities**

Most countries in the world cannot receive large ships with bulky containers as they do not have a port or terminal. So, shipping to those would not be an option.

- **Not Faster**

Transporting your goods by the Ocean can take weeks or even months to reach its destination. It is usually a good option for non-perishable goods. While other modes have a delivery period of two to three working days.

- **Risk Factor**

As we now know, it is not the fastest mode of transport. The gap between the time of shipping and delivery may involve many risk factors. The risk factors involve delay or harsh weather conditions. There is also a chance of loss or damage to shipment.

Air Freight Vs Ocean Freight: Things to Consider

The following things to consider before choosing the correct mode:

- Shipping Speed

Air freight cargo is definitely the fastest mode of transportation of cargo. It is mostly preferred as shipping by water can take days or months to reach the destination. In the case of perishable goods, an air carrier is recommended for international transactions. But goods of a non-perishable nature can be shipped through Ocean freight.

- Cost

Due to no maintenance fees charged in [Ocean freight](#), it is 15 to 20 times cheaper than air carriers. But, even if air carriers charge a high maintenance fee, they handle the goods as their own. The air carrier is expensive but has its advantages.

- Maintenance and Handling

Handling and maintenance are given more priority in the case of air carriers. There is a risk of loss or damage of the goods in the case of **sea freight**. However, maintenance charges are less for water transport than for airways.

- Goods Capacity

Ocean freight carries goods in bulk of any size and shape of the cargo. However, air carriers have a limitation when it comes to the size and shape of the goods. These carriers have containers pre-marked with the weight of the goods, and for carrying more weight, additional money is charged. In the case of passenger aircraft, the size of goods is even less.

- Eco-friendly

Air carriers cause pollution due to the burning of more fuel. But Ocean freight uses less fuel to transport to the same distance. Over 90% of organizations globally prefer waterways as an eco-friendly mode of transport of goods.

- Risk of Theft

Ships are more exposed to the risk of theft and damage due to multiple handlings. But air freight is free from these factors. Goods are well maintained in an air carrier even if it is expensive.

- Reliability

In the case of an air carrier goods can be tracked and have more certainty to be delivered safely to the consignee. Whereas in an Ocean carrier, it is not easy to track the loading and unloading of shipped goods. However, the air carrier is the most reliable mode.

Choose the Right Mode to Ship Your Cargo

After considering the pros and cons of both modes of transport, it is time to choose the right one for your convenience. However, both ways have their separate advantages and disadvantages. Decisions are made based on the customer's wants and requirements.

Most of the customers choose fast delivery options to transport goods of a perishable nature. Goods like fruits and vegetables should be shipped in a short time as they could rot. Air carriers provide a premium service when it comes to handling goods. While shipping handicrafts or delicate goods, only air carriers should be preferred.



Moving on to an Ocean carrier is less expensive compared to air freight. For customers who are not willing to pay a high amount for shipping their goods from one country to another, **sea freight** is the one to consider. But, it is not as reliable or convenient as air carriers.

So, it is entirely up to the customers to choose the mode of transport as per their convenience. Always keep in mind the nature of the cargo you are shipping, your budget, and how it will impact your business. Which one are you considering?



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