

San Francisco International Airport

Airport Address

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San Francisco, CA 94128-8097

Air Cargo Contact

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Although the San Francisco International Airport (SFO) is a department of the City and County of San Francisco, it is located at the north edge of San Mateo County on the west side of the Bay. SFO is one of three main cargo airports (along with Oakland International and Mineta San Jose International) within District 4.

OPERATIONS

SFO operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (24/7).

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Cargo service is available from 56 airlines, including seven cargo-only airlines.
- U. S. Custom's services are available on site 24/7.
- SFO's 11 cargo facilities provide over 1,026,000 square feet of warehouse and office space, including newly-added cargo facilities.

AIRPORT TRADE CHARACTERISTICS

- SFO has captured 40.7% of the Bay Area air cargo market, including 93.7% of the international market in 2009.
- In 2008, SFO was ranked fourth nationally in freight value of imports and exports with a total of about \$53 billion.
- 7% of all U.S. international merchandise by value was handled at SFO.
- Approximately 60% of cargo at SFO is carried on passenger aircraft. Over half of that total is international cargo.
- United Airlines is the largest carrier of international merchandise imports and the second largest carrier of exports.
- SFO is a major trade hub with Pacific Rim countries like South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan.



- Roughly 2/3 of cargo at SFO is international and this is expected to stay fairly constant.
- West Coast airports have a geographic advantage because they connect directly to Asian markets without stopovers in Europe.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK TRUCKING

Primary North-South Routes

- US 101 and I-280

Primary East-West Routes

- I-580 (via the San Mateo Bridge) and 80, the western leg of a national freight corridor (via the Bay Bridge).

On SR-24 (Caldicott Tunnel), no liquefied petroleum gas, or poisonous gas in tank truck, trailer or semi-

Freight Planning Fact Sheet

trailers allowed, and no explosives or flammables on either Routes 80 (Bay Bridge) or on SR 24.

SEAPORTS AND RAIL LINE ACCESS

- The Port of San Francisco Foreign Trade Zone¹ is located 13 miles away.
- The San Francisco Bay Railroad short-line serves the Port and interchanges commodities with Union Pacific (UP).

PLANNED PROJECTS

- Caltrans is working with UC Berkeley on a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Air Freight study to assess the feasibility of transporting freight off-peak on the same light rail system.
- Replacement and expansion of warehouse and office space at the corner of West Field and West Cargo Roads.

OTHER AIRPORT FACTS

- In 2011, SFO was ranked the 17th largest air cargo airport in the nation by the North America Airports Council International (ACI), by transporting almost 421,104 tons.
- SFO is also the 15th leading air, land, and/or sea freight gateway in the nation.
- By 2035, air cargo is expected to increase by 127% percent, mostly due to growth in international cargo demand.

CONSTRAINTS AND ISSUES

- Expansion at SFO is limited by its runway configuration at the edge of the Bay and capacity is constrained due to recurring unfavorable weather conditions (e.g. , fog).
- Due to forecasted growth in international cargo demand, capacity will be reached well before 2035.
- SFO was one of the first to voluntarily implement a Fly Quiet Program that grades individual airline performance on noise abatement procedures, and a neighborhood home sound-insulation program to mitigate noise impacts.
- Exacerbated by being located within a peninsula, trucking contributes to roadway congestion, safety, environmental, and pavement damage issues for surrounding communities.

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) identified I-80 at I-580/I-880 (Bay Bridge approach) among the worst freight bottlenecks in California's supply chain.

CALTRANS FOCUS AREAS

- Implement ways to alleviate highway bottlenecks along truck routes—like BART Air Freight efforts.
- Improve pavement conditions due to truck damage.
- Develop plan for handling sea level rise to ensure freight accessibility.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PARTNERS

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG):
<http://www.abag.ca.gov/>

Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD): <http://baaqmd.gov/>

Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC): <http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/>

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC):
<http://www.mtc.ca.gov>

SOURCES

Air Cargo Mode Choice and Demand Study (2010), prepared for Caltrans by TranSystems:
<http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ogm/aircargo.html>

Air Cargo World: <http://www.aircargoworld.com>

Goods Movement Action Plan (2007), California Air Resource Board and Business, Transportation and Housing: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/gmp/docs/gmap-1-11-07.pdf>

Regional Goods Movement Stud for the San Francisco Bay Area, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), 2004:
<http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/rgm/>

MTC Regional Airport Planning:
http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/air_plan/

San Francisco International Airport Air Cargo:
<http://www.flysfo.com/web/page/about/b2b/cargo/>

¹ Foreign Trade Zone—A port or nearby designated enclosed area where imported goods can be stored or processed free of custom duties prior to re-export.