

# MULTIMODEL

Saves cost

## What is Multimodal?

Multimodal Transport is the combination of different means of transport, in order to make possible the movement of cargo, i.e. making it speedy and more efficient.

In this type of transportation, there is more than one kind of vehicle required to take the goods to the final destination, by the use of trains, trucks, airplanes, ships or some other mean of transport for the delivery.

In spite of the support of environmentalists and cargo transportation experts, multimodality might induce certain costs through the use of modal interfaces, such as transshipments, handling, etc. However, you may hire a Freight Forwarding Company that provides an interface between the various types of transport, without getting the Importer or the Exporter involved in this exchange.

The advantage of Multimodal Transport lies in the most efficient combination of multiple means of transport, cutting back on inventory costs, whilst optimizing deadlines, therefore keeping the costs of the merchandise under control. The combination of these also results in high environmental sustainability, since Multimodal Transport reduces the environmental footprint of transportation. See the Multimodal show in Figure 1.1.



Figure 1.1. Multimodal

For more complex shipments, or a more thorough exploration of the quality or price ratio of each part of the transportation, multimodal transport is a good, often the only, option to consider, especially to or from countries that do not border on the sea.

### **Advantages of Multimodal**

- Reduction of cargo handling times.
- Reduction of costs per vehicle.
- Decrease in customs controls.
- Only one contract is made.
- Tracking cargo through satellite systems.
- Low rates of theft or damage to the cargo that favor the costs of insurance premiums abroad.

### **Characteristics of Multimodal**

- Two or more types of transport are used to transport a load.
- The transfer can be at national or international level.
- It is possible to use maritime, air or land transport vehicles combined or of the same type.
- You can move materials or goods using a single contract.
- Distances can be long or short.
- Cargo tracking through satellite systems.

### **Challenges to Multimodal**

With the globalization of production and the liberalization of services, developing countries and countries in transition, more than ever, need more than ever to increase their capabilities in offering reliable and cost-effective transport and logistics services, taking advantage of technological development through appropriate “Leapfrogging” into modern technologies and commercial practices

There is a world-wide need for harmonization of the legal environment for multimodal transport, in particular considering the development of new forms of international transport such as combined road or rail transport and short-sea shipping in Europe.

Measuring, understanding, and responding to the role of intermodals in the changing customer requirements and hyper competition of supply chains in a global marketplace

The need to reliable and flexible response to changing customer requirements with seamless and integrated coordination of freight and equipment flows through various modes

Knowledge of current and future intermodal operational options and alternatives, as well as the potential for improved information and communications technology and the challenges associated with their application

Constraints on and coordination of infrastructure capacity, including policy and regulatory issues, as well as better management of existing infrastructure and broader considerations on future investment in new infrastructure.