

LOGISTICS

# Sea vs. Air Freight: The Saudi-Brazil Corridor Guide

Cost, transit time and risk on the Jeddah↔Santos lane

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# Chapter 1 — Choosing the lane

For Saudi-Brazil trade, two corridor pairs dominate: Jeddah-Santos (~22-28 days) on the East Coast lane, and Dammam-Itajaí (~28-34 days) through the Cape route. Air freight Dammam-Guarulhos runs roughly 36-48 hours but at 12-18x the per-kg cost.

Air makes sense for samples, replacement parts and high-margin perishables. Sea makes sense for everything else.

## Indicative rates and transit (Q2 2026)

LANE	MODE	TRANSIT	RATE (USD/CBM OR USD/KG)
Jeddah-Santos	40HC FCL	22-28 days	2,400 - 3,200 per box
Dammam-Itajaí	40HC FCL	28-34 days	2,900 - 3,700 per box
Dammam-Guarulhos	Air freight	36-48 hours	5.50 - 7.20 per kg

## **Chapter 2 — Demurrage and detention windows**

Demurrage starts when free time at the port runs out. Standard free time at Santos is 7 days for 40HC. Demurrage runs USD 100-180 per day per box afterwards. At Jeddah Islamic Port, standard free time is 4 days.

Detention applies to the container once outside the port. Most Saudi importers run a 21-day detention free period; Brazilian exporters typically negotiate 14 days.

## Chapter 3 — Customs lead times

Brazilian export customs (Receita Federal) processes shipments through Siscomex in 24-72 hours when documents are clean. Saudi import customs (Fasah) processes in 48-96 hours for standard goods, longer for restricted items or anything missing a SASO Saber certificate.

Plan back from the latest acceptable arrival date: subtract 5 days customs both ends, the sea transit, and a safety buffer of 7 days for weather and port congestion.