

MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM

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Abstract: *Multimodal transport systems represent an innovative approach to logistics, integrating various modes of transportation—such as air, land, and sea—to enhance the efficiency and flexibility of cargo movement. This system allows for the seamless transfer of goods without the necessity of containers, catering not only to industrial applications but also to domestic transport needs. Central to multimodal transport is the role of professional operators who manage the entire logistics process through a multimodal transport contract, assuming full responsibility for the goods and ensuring reliable service from origin to destination. This approach enables shipping companies to provide comprehensive transport solutions that prioritize customer convenience over traditional port-to-port services. By utilizing diverse transportation vehicles and routes, multimodal systems offer clients the option to optimize their logistics strategies, thereby improving overall operational efficiency and responsiveness in a dynamic market landscape.*

Key words: *maritime transport, multimodal freight transport, air, land, and sea routes*

Transport is considered one of the most important pillars in the development of globalization, as it has enabled the acceleration of the purchasing and selling of raw materials, goods, and packaging items worldwide. Maritime transport has been one of the most significant modes in this area, as it allows for the relatively inexpensive exchange of large volumes of materials.

The development of transport has also had a positive impact on international markets, forcing countries around the world to compete in seeking economic and commercial advantages. Although it may seem new, multimodal transport is not a recent concept. In the 17th century, to avoid accidents on some irregular roads, certain wagons were mounted on boats.

However, as a modern concept, multimodal transport emerged with the creation of railways, as this marked the beginning of transporting goods over long distances via rail, allowing for faster and more efficient transportation.

Multimodal freight transport involves the use of different modes of transport based on a single freight contract. The main advantage of this type of transport is the optimal combination of various transport modes to maximize their benefits. In multimodal transport, goods can cover any distance, including across continents.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has a unique geopolitical position. Lacking direct access to oceans and surrounded by landlocked countries, multimodal transport is particularly relevant. Routes such as "sea + road," "sea + rail," and "rail + road" are especially popular.



Figure 1. Cargo Terminal

Each order for transporting goods has specific requirements regarding the cargo, route, and delivery speed. Considering the transport infrastructure of countries, environmental conditions, customs regulations, and the facilities available for loading and unloading in a specific region, multimodal transport offers delivery based on the "door-to-door" principle.



Figure 2. Types of Cargo Transport

The pricing of the proposed multimodal freight transport has the following characteristics: if delivery time is crucial, the route will be direct, and the price will reflect that; conversely, if financial considerations take precedence, then a cheaper but longer transport mode will be used.

The active development of Uzbekistan's foreign economic relations is often linked to addressing the existing problems faced by the external trade transport system in Central

Asia. As academic V. Bartold noted, “The future of Turkestan depends on its place in world trade. The essence of Turkestan's trade is tied to the development of railways that restore both land and maritime trade.”

After the collapse of the USSR, the number of landlocked countries reached 29, with Uzbekistan occupying a special position, as it is one of only two countries in the world separated from the ocean by the territory of at least two other states.

Before gaining independence, Uzbekistan could only conduct its foreign economic relations through three sea ports: Ilichevsk (access to the Black Sea), Saint Petersburg (access to the Baltic Sea), and Vladivostok (access to the Far Eastern ports). The distances from the republic to these ports were 3000, 4300, and 8000 km respectively, leading to significantly increased shipping costs. However, during the years of independent development, thanks to the targeted policies of the state leadership, the situation in this area has changed drastically.

It can also be added that certain cargoes can be transported using various multimodal means without the need for containers. Additionally, multimodal transport can be applied not only for industrial purposes but also in domestic transport.

Typically, multimodal transport is carried out by a professional operator who should conclude a multimodal transport contract, which implies that they assume full responsibility for the goods and guarantee the execution of the transfer. This means that due to multimodal transport, shipping companies can offer a transport service that extends to the recipient's convenience, rather than just providing the traditional service of moving goods from one port to another.

In multimodal transport, it is possible to use different types of vehicles that cross various routes, such as air, land, and sea. The client may decide whether to combine different transport vehicles or to use the same type of vehicle.

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