

## Blocktrain Connections China - Europe: Congestion and Backlog

Rail freight traffic between China and Europe has been experiencing a **backlog** since mid of May, initially triggered by the congestion at the terminal in Xian. In the meantime, the problems have been exacerbated by **congestion on the border between China and Kazakhstan**, which has spread to most rail terminals. This situation affects the transit time of China-Europe freight trains and stopped China-CIS freight trains. For this reason we would like to provide you with a summarized **overview**:



### Delays

- The stations Xian, Chongqing, Yiwu and Chengdu are most affected; delays of 5 to 7 days are expected, in the worst case up to 14 days
- Due to the cancellation of all trains from Xian via Alashankou from 24 to 30 June, delays of 5 to 14 days are feared for departures in the first two weeks of July
- For less affected departure terminals, such as Hefei, Wuhan, Zhengzhou, there are delays of 3 to 5 days due to congestion at the border between China and Kazakhstan
- The Alashankou and Khorgos border crossings are severely affected by the high volume and lack of wagons. In comparison, the situation at the Erenhot and Manzhouli crossings, which are mainly used for rail transport between China and Russia, is relaxed, as the volumes to Russia have fallen sharply as a result of the Covid eruption in Russia. However, it is to be expected that the re-routing of volumes via these crossings will also lead to a backlog
- Due to the increase in volume since April, there is also backlog at the Breast and Malaszewicze crossings and delays of 2-3 days

## Recommended rail terminals and routes to cope with delays

- East-China to Hamburg: trains from Zhengzhou and Hefei
- East-China to Duisburg, Liege, Munich and Neuss: express-trains from Zhengzhou, Hefei and Xian to Neuss
- South-China to Hamburg and Duisburg: trains from Ganzhou with planned departures at 7., 9., 16. and 23. July
- South- and East-China to Poland and Duisburg: trains from Chengdu with planned departures at 10., 17., 24. and 31. July
- South- and East-China to Duisburg, Hamburg, Budapest and Prague: trains from Chongqing with departures after July 20th (all trains before will be delayed and are already fully booked to process the backlog)
- North-China to Duisburg and Hamburg: departures from Xian are an option, as the situation on this route should ease. Additionally there are two departures per week from Weihai-Chongqing (Tuesday and Friday)

## Prospects

- ⇒ Due to the backlog and delays, capacity will be limited in July as well. Please be prepared for this.
- ⇒ As the situation in the coming period will ease only slowly and furthermore it is not possible to predict, how capacities and transit times will develop, an early forecast and early advance booking is recommended.

Together with our partners, we work intensively to minimize the delays for your shipments and to offer you good alternatives. [Please contact us at an early stage, we are prepared to consult you!](#)

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