

There is no direct air link. Shipments must be sent through large European cities such as Paris, London, Zurich, Brussels or Madrid.

Because there are often problems with harbour congestion and customs delays, shippers are advised to obtain insurance valid until the goods have in fact cleared customs. Note that the insurance is normally handled by the Algerian purchaser.

There is no free zone in Algerian ports. If the goods cannot be cleared through customs within 15 days, they become subject to a double charge (the standard charge and a charge for extended storage). They can be seized if they are not claimed within four months and 15 days, and sold if the delay extends beyond eight months and 15 days.

Payment Methods

Purchases by the state corporations and public bodies are occasionally payable on delivery of the documents, but credits of from 60 to 180 days are frequently granted by international competitors. Because of bureaucratic delays, letters of credit should be avoided, and the state corporations rarely consent to them, except in the case of shipments of perishable goods.

With contracts for service, work or equipment for industrial or infrastructure projects, the sale is in most cases tied to an offer of financing over 5 to 15 years at interest rates competitive with those on the international financial markets. Although the Algerian state corporations have the reputation of honouring their obligations, there may sometimes be fairly long bureaucratic delays in making currency payments, especially if the cases are not closely followed up. The supplier would be well advised to take that into account in his financial forecasting.

For shipments of a value greater than 100,000 dinars or \$25,000 Canadian to private firms in Algeria, make certain that the potential buyer has the license or export visa before shipping the goods.

Mail, Telegraph and Telephone Service

It is generally possible to reach an Algerian contact from Canada by telephone or telex within less than a day.