
(e) Marine

For containerized cargo *Lykes Lines* provides direct scheduled service between Saint John, New Brunswick and Veracruz, Mexico. The eight-day all water service includes three multipurpose vessels, providing a 23-day frequency for containers, as well as project and breakbulk cargo service.

Maritime shipping rates are very competitive with rail and road rates, although marine shipping is slower. For some shipments however (e.g. bulk grains, oil, etc.), marine transport is highly suitable, and for particularly large shipments of any kind, marine transport rates can be more competitive.

For general cargo entering Mexico by sea, exporters can expect a 4 to 5 day delay, in addition to transit times of 10-20 days, as goods are custom cleared and moved to an importer's warehouse. Most marine shipments are transferred to trucks at Mexican ports for shipment into the interior.

Early in 1993 a rail-barge service was inaugurated by *BN* and *Protexa* between Galveston, Texas and several Mexican ports for onward movement by *FNM*.

Appendix B provides a listing of maritime services.

(f) Air

Air transport is often used for the movement of high-value items (e.g. electronics, aircraft parts, pharmaceuticals, precious stones and metals, flowers) between Canada and Mexico. At present, most direct air traffic between the two countries is charter vacation traffic to sunspot destinations in Mexico which does not lend itself well to cargo transport (little traffic to Mexican business centres, lack of cargo space and irregular scheduling). Charter companies operating to Mexico include *Air Transat* and *Canada 3000*.

Commercial airlines, however, do provide direct scheduled flights from Toronto and Vancouver to Mexico City. *Canadian Airlines International* operates a direct flight four times per week between Toronto and Mexico City. *Japan Airlines (JAL)* flies direct twice weekly from Vancouver to Mexico City.

In addition to direct scheduled air services between Canada and Mexico, Canadian shippers can increase their capacity and frequency options to Mexico by using *Air Canada* or *Canadian Airlines* in conjunction with the