

Article Overview

The FOB price for a 6-core optical fiber container to South Asia typically ranges from \$2,000 to \$4,000 per 40-foot container, depending on origin, carrier, and current market conditions.

Current Market Overview

Container shipping rates fluctuate daily due to demand, fuel costs, and port congestion. According to the Freightos Baltic Index (FBX), Asia-to-South Asia routes generally fall within the \$2,000-\$4,000 per 40-foot container range, though exact rates vary by port and carrier. The Xeneta Shipping Index (XSI-C) provides real-time, anonymized data from global shippers, reflecting short-term Freight All Kind (FAK) rates for 40-foot containers, which can be used to estimate FOB costs.

Factors Affecting FOB Price

- o **Origin Port:** Shipping from China, India, or Southeast Asia can influence the base rate. Ports with higher congestion may increase costs.
- o **Carrier and Service Type:** Major carriers like Maersk or CMA CGM offer different rates depending on transit time, reliability, and additional services.
- o **Container Type:** A standard 40-foot container is commonly used for optical fiber shipments. Specialized containers or temperature-controlled units may increase costs.
- o **Surcharges:** Fuel, security, documentation, and handling fees are often included in FOB quotes, but customs duties and inland transport are additional.

How to Obtain an Accurate FOB Quote

- o Use online freight calculators like Freightos or CMA CGM's Public Prices Finder to input origin, destination, and container type for a live quote.
- o Contact carriers or freight forwarders directly for negotiated rates, especially for bulk or recurring shipments.
- o Monitor All-Forward or Xeneta indices for trends and short-term fluctuations to time shipments cost-effectively.

Practical Tip

For a 6-core optical fiber container, ensure the FOB quote includes port handling, documentation, and fuel surcharges, and clarify whether the price is for a 20-foot or 40-foot container, as this significantly affects the total cost. By combining these indices and direct quotes, you can estimate the current FOB price for South Asia shipments and plan logistics accordingly.

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