

OVERVIEW · ROUTES AND SHIPPING RULES

Routes in autumn 2026: what has changed and how to ship smarter

New rules for importing into Russia (SPOT and a QR code), restrictions on the Kazakh border, electronic waybills and EU sanctions pressure on transit through Kyrgyzstan. We look at which routes are the most reliable right now.

October 2026

current as of

KG ⇄ RU ⇄ KZ

routes

Shippers, consignees

for

1 July

security payment and QR code for imports into Russia from KG, KZ and Armenia

Once a day

a truck may cross the Kazakh border — since 7 July

1 September

electronic waybills in Russia; no fines until 1 March 2027

This information is current as of 18 October 2026 and is based on public sources (listed at the end of the article). It is an overview, not legal advice: please check the details with a manager before shipping.

1 Key changes in 2026

- **Since 1 June** Russia has run SPOT, a system confirming expected deliveries from EAEU countries. The Russian consignee files an advance delivery notice (DOPP) through the Federal Tax Service portal.
- **Since 1 July** road deliveries from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Armenia require a security payment. The consignee then receives a QR code and passes it to the carrier — without the code the cargo may be refused entry into Russia.
- **Since 7 July** Kazakhstan allows trucks and cars to cross its border no more than once a day — a measure against fuel being taken to Russia, where refinery strikes caused a fuel shortage.
- **Since 1 September** the electronic waybill (ETrN) has become the main format in Russia. Fines for not using it will not apply until 1 March 2027.
- **April and summer:** the EU's 20th and 21st sanctions packages applied the anti-circumvention tool to Kyrgyzstan for the first time and restricted transactions with several Kyrgyz banks and companies.

2 Political and economic background

Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Kazakhstan remain in the EAEU: union goods move without customs declarations or duties. But controls over deliveries tightened noticeably in 2026, for three reasons.

- **Russia is tightening import control.** SPOT and the security payment make sure an importer from the EAEU pays VAT. The DOPP and QR code are the Russian consignee's responsibility, but without them the truck waits too.
- **Russia's fuel shortage** has affected its neighbours: Kazakhstan limited how often vehicles can cross its border. We found no official cancellation of this rule at the time of publication.
- **EU pressure on transit.** According to EU estimates, imports of controlled EU goods into Kyrgyzstan have grown by about 800% compared with pre-war levels, and their re-export to Russia by about 1,200%. In the 20th package the EU therefore banned exports of CNC machines and radio equipment to Kyrgyzstan, and later listed several Kyrgyz companies and banks.

Demand for transport keeps growing nonetheless: in January–April 2026 Kyrgyzstan carried 19.4 million tonnes of cargo (+7.1%), of which 15.8 million tonnes by road (+8.6%).

3 Which routes are the most favourable now

1. **Russia ⇌ Kyrgyzstan by road via Kazakhstan** — the main and most predictable route for consolidated cargo. The key to success is paperwork: the DOPP and QR code on the Russian consignee's side, a CMR for the whole route and an electronic waybill for the Russian leg. Allow 1–2 days of buffer at the border.
2. **Consolidated (groupage) cargo** — the best value while carriers' costs are rising: you pay only for your own weight and volume, and one truck with a complete set of documents clears controls faster than many small shipments.
3. **Rail via Kazakhstan** — for large lots where timing is less critical: it depends less on truck queues at road checkpoints.
4. **Bishkek ⇌ Kazakhstan** — a short leg, but keep the once-a-day rule and seasonal queues in mind. In 2026 there were jams at the Ak-Tilek — Karasu crossing (February, May, August: up to 400 trucks) and at Ak-Zhol — Korday; during jams some traffic is redirected to neighbouring checkpoints.

Outlook. The China — Kyrgyzstan — Uzbekistan railway (532 km, \$4.7 billion) is ahead of schedule: about 17% of the works were completed by summer 2026, and it is expected to be finished a year earlier than the planned five years. The Middle Corridor across the Caspian is growing but cannot yet replace the northern route: its capacity is estimated at about 5% of the route through Russia, and congestion stretches transit times to up to 40 days.

4 What to avoid right now

- Shipping to Russia without a DOPP and QR code — the cargo may be refused at the border.
- Inconsistent documents: the description, number of packages and weight must match in the contract, invoice, packing list and CMR.

- Re-exporting to Russia EU-origin goods covered by EU restrictions (CNC machines, radio equipment), and payments through sanctioned banks.
- Tight schedules with no time buffer at the Kazakh border.

5 Pre-shipment checklist

- The Russian consignee has filed the DOPP and made the security payment; the QR code has been sent to the carrier.
- The contract, invoice, packing list and CMR are ready, and the details match across all documents.
- Goods covered by EAEU technical regulations have a certificate or declaration of conformity.
- The origin of the goods and the paying bank have been checked.
- The schedule includes 1–2 days of buffer for the border crossing.

6 How AsDi Cargo can help

We carry consolidated cargo between Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Kazakhstan, store cargo at our warehouse before dispatch and prepare the shipping documents. A manager will suggest the right route for your cargo and check the documents before dispatch.

7 Sources

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8. [economist.kg](#) — Около 400 фур скопились на границе Казахстана с Кыргызстаном (30.08.2026)
9. [economist.kg](#) — Грузоперевозки в Кыргызстане выросли на 7,1% (16.07.2026)
10. [Gazeta.uz](#) — Железную дорогу Китай — Кыргызстан — Узбекистан планируют построить на год раньше (03.08.2026)
11. [German Economic Team](#) — Challenges and opportunities of the Middle Corridor

Need advice?

Message a manager — we will pick a route and check your documents.

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