

**ADVANTAGES OF THE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM AND PROSPECTS
FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT IN UZBEKISTAN**

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Abstract: This article discusses general concepts of the multimodal transport system, its advantages, and the prospects for developing this system in Uzbekistan. As a result, issues such as modernization and development of the logistics system, as well as convenience in cargo and passenger transportation, are examined.

Keywords: multimodal transportation, intermodal transportation, transport system, cargo and passengers, logistics system, information and communication technologies.

Introduction.

As the logistics system in our country and cooperation with international organizations, as well as international transportation, continue to develop, modern technologies, new types of transport vehicles, modern transport infrastructure, and innovative cargo transportation methods are being introduced. The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 29, 2021, No. 717, approving the regulation on offering a special regime to support artificial intelligence technologies and organizing its activities, demonstrates that organizing the transport system at a new modern level and applying intelligent transport systems are a fundamental part of national development. Uzbekistan's large-scale commodity trade increases the turnover of Central Asia every year. With such a large volume of exports and growing production rates, ensuring efficient cargo delivery is extremely important for Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan demonstrates a well-developed logistics scheme that employs various transport technologies depending on many individual factors such as cargo characteristics, delivery time, and delivery financing. Intermodal and multimodal transportation systems exist. Participants in the logistics process are often located far apart in different countries and even on different continents; therefore, correctly determining the delivery route and choosing the most optimal type is crucial. Cargo delivery is carried out using various modes and routes of transport, the choice of which affects the speed of trade in Uzbekistan. Intermodal transportation began to be applied immediately. Each stage of logistics formed its own regulatory and legal framework that defines specific contractual terms, levels of responsibility, and rules of conduct. This sector developed toward expanding transport capabilities, but customer requirements have not been fully satisfied. Further development of international road cargo transportation is necessary. [1]

Multimodal transport is a system of delivering goods using several modes of transport (road, rail, sea, air, etc.). In this form of transport, the cargo is kept in a single package (usually a container) and transferred between transport modes without repackaging. The main feature of multimodal transport is that a single contract is concluded for cargo dispatch and receipt, and overall organizational management is carried out by one operator.

The multimodal transport system is one of the key elements of modern logistics, serving to accelerate the transportation process, reduce costs, and increase cargo security. By combining the advantages of different transport modes, multimodal transportation ensures efficient long-

distance cargo delivery. Today, multimodal transport is widely used in international trade and transport systems, especially playing an important role in improving the efficiency of global logistics chains.

“Intermodal transport is a result of economic globalization when delivery must be carried out by combining the use of different modes of transport. This yields positive results because the interests of the customer and the delivered cargo are prioritized. Due to the creation of such a system, cargo delivery in Uzbekistan becomes significantly faster and cheaper. Essentially, intermodal cargo transportation involves step-by-step delivery using two or more modes of transport. When changing from one mode to another, the goods are not reloaded. At the same time, several logistics companies may be involved in this delivery method. These may be different modes of transport, and responsibility for the cargo is evenly distributed among all transport participants.” [2]

The multimodal transport system ensures cargo delivery using multiple transport modes under a single contract. This system has many advantages that are of great importance in modern transport and logistics.

1. Firstly, the multimodal transport system increases transportation efficiency. The advantages of different transport modes are combined; for example, road transport is used for speed, while rail transport is used for transporting large volumes of cargo cheaply over long distances. This allows cargo to be delivered via the most optimal routes and reduces transport costs.
2. Secondly, multimodal transportation helps reduce costs. Managing delivery processes across different transport modes under a single contract becomes easier, reducing unnecessary expenses and managerial complexity. In addition, cargo packaging and handling become more efficient, reducing the risk of damage or loss.
3. Thirdly, the multimodal transport system enhances cargo security. Cargo is often stored in non-replaceable containers, which reduces damage and loss. Moreover, cargo tracking and control are carried out through a unified system, increasing the reliability of the delivery process.
4. Fourthly, multimodal transportation saves time. Due to well-coordinated transfers between transport modes, cargo is delivered quickly and on time, increasing the efficiency of production and trade processes.
5. Fifthly, the multimodal transport system contributes to environmental protection. Efficient combinations of transport modes reduce fuel consumption, and increased use of rail and maritime transport helps reduce environmental damage.
6. Sixthly, the multimodal transport system simplifies transportation management. A single multimodal operator manages the cargo along the entire route and clearly defines contractual terms and responsibilities for the cargo owner, ensuring convenience.

Finally, the multimodal transport system is very convenient for international trade. It ensures cargo delivery along the entire route under one contract and regulates customs and other legal issues within a unified system. Therefore, multimodal transportation is an essential component of global trade and logistics processes. Thus, the multimodal transport system creates significant opportunities to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and ensure cargo safety in modern transportation.

“In modern business conditions, logistics is a tool that significantly affects company costs. Therefore, businesses currently pay great attention to transportation and storage issues, making

compliance with transportation conditions, high communication speed, and attractive tariff policies extremely important. Imperfections in these factors slightly reduce the attractiveness of Uzbek carriers in the logistics services market. Currently, the most developed 3PL logistics markets in the world are those of the USA and European countries. According to research conducted by the American company Armstrong & Associates Inc., based on recent years' data on national 3PL revenues, Uzbekistan ranks significantly lower than developed countries in terms of the importance and size of the 3PL transport and logistics market.

To realize Uzbekistan's international transit potential and provide transport support for exports and imports, it is first necessary to integrate the entire transport complex into the global transport system. Today, three economic centers have formed worldwide: East Asia, North America, and Western Europe, which must maintain constant interaction. Uzbekistan, located between Asia (producer) and Europe (consumer), has a favorable geographical position and must use this advantage effectively. The volume of international and domestic cargo transportation is directly linked to the country's economic development. Although cargo transportation volumes declined between 2010 and 2016, excluding the period from 2008 to 2010 marked by the global financial crisis and short-term trade recession, steady growth has been observed from 2000 to the present.”

[3]

Uzbekistan has a very favorable geographical location. International trade routes connecting Asia and Europe pass through the country. Therefore, developing a multimodal transport system in Uzbekistan is of great importance. Through this system, cargo is delivered using several modes of transport (for example, road, rail, sea, etc.) under a single contract and managed by one organization.

In recent years, significant attention has been paid to multimodal transportation in Uzbekistan. For example, in 2023, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Iran, and Tajikistan reached an agreement to establish a new international multimodal transport corridor. This route will help increase cargo transportation volumes through Uzbekistan.

In addition, multimodal transport projects between Uzbekistan and China are being implemented. Cargo is transported from China first by road, then by rail, and finally by sea to other countries. These routes are important for Uzbekistan as they make export-import processes faster and more efficient.

Another important development is that China's HiChain company plans to build three large logistics centers in Uzbekistan. These centers will be constructed in Tashkent, Syrdarya, and Bukhara regions and will specialize specifically in multimodal transportation services.

Moreover, the Government of Uzbekistan has adopted the “Strategy for the Development of Transport and Logistics Infrastructure for 2022–2026.” This strategy outlines specific plans to expand multimodal transport routes, integrate transport modes, and modernize logistics services.

In the future, the multimodal transport system is expected to develop in the following directions:

1. New international routes will be opened — Uzbekistan is establishing multimodal routes with countries such as China, Turkey, India, and Russia.
2. The number of logistics centers will increase — these centers will facilitate multimodal cargo transportation.
3. Transport services will become more competitive — transportation costs will decrease and time will be saved.
4. Market access opportunities will expand — Uzbekistan's export potential will increase.

5. Environmental safety will be ensured — the use of rail and other “green” transport modes will reduce environmental impact.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, the multimodal transport system ensures fast and high-quality delivery of all goods and products to their designated destinations. The single-operator system and the fact that packaged cargo is not opened until it reaches its destination provide numerous conveniences for entrepreneurs. In turn, this system reduces time and costs by several percent.

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