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How Heavy and Oversized Cargo Benefits from the Rail Network in the USA

Rail transport may be the most effective method for delivering big and enormous cargo when the cargo satisfies specific requirements.

Carloads that are wider than 325 centimetres and taller than 335 centimetres, or that weigh more than 68 metric tons, need special approval. The railroad then decides if such dimensions or high/wide loads are feasible based on a clearance process that considers the intended move's routing, distance and other technical criteria. When transporting large items over long distances, rail transport is often more affordable than other modes of transportation.

The U.S. Department of Transportation claims that with a length of approximately 225,000 kilometres, the US rail freight network is the longest, safest and most economical freight system in the world. There are roughly 72,500 route kilometres covered by short lines. The nearly USD 80 billion freight rail business is served by seven Class I railroads, 22 regional and 584 local line railroads. This industry supports over 167,000 jobs in the USA. Additionally, rail freight provides advantages that no other mode of transportation can, including lower costs for logistics, upkeep of public infrastructure, and decreases in fuel consumption, traffic incidents, congestion on the roads and greenhouse gas emissions. A major portion of North America is accessible by the North American railways, which are also continuously increasing their capacity.



Stefan Welch, Head of Specialized Transport, deugro

Moving dimensions and heavy lift cargo by rail in the USA is possible thanks to the relatively uniform North American rail network and its remarkably high weight capacity. Contrary to road transportation, there is no need for time-consuming, multi-state permitting procedures, route changes, costly engineering studies for bridges, or any of the usual third parties.

Intermodal transport, bulk cargo like grain, crude, chemicals, lumber and sand, as well as cars and other items make up the majority of rail freight. More than any other single commodity group, US rail intermodal transport contributes nearly 25% to the main US railroads' annual income. Approximately 1.7 billion metric tons of raw materials and finished commodities are transported by freight trains annually. An average



Each slug catcher measured approximately 26 x 4 x 4 m and weighed 196.7 MT



The cargo was railed from Kansas to Texas using a 70' 8-axle railcar

freight train now carries close to 4,000 metric tons of cargo thanks in part to newly constructed railcars.

Even while the number of dimensional cargo moves is growing, they still account for a negligibly small portion of the railroads' annual revenue.

Earlier in 2022, deugro handled another two identical shipments from Houston, Texas to Lorenzo, Illinois. The HRSG modules had weights of up to 182 metric tons and measurements of up to 32.9 x 3 x 3.6 metres. The dimensions of the 111.54-metric-ton drum vessel were 15 x 2.8 x 3.6 metres. At the end of 2022, deugro delivered two slug catchers by rail. Each slug catcher measured approximately 26 x 4 x 4 metres and weighed 196.7 metric tons. They were railed from Kansas to Houston, Texas on a 70-foot, 8-axle railcar.

When it comes to limiting the emission of greenhouse gases, increasing the efficient use of fuel, and reducing the carbon footprint, rail freight is well ahead of other modes of transportation. Advanced locomotive technology or zero-emission cranes can help to limit the impact on the environment even further. This is in line with deugro's long-term investment and commitment to delivering innovative logistics solutions to support the global energy transition.

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deugro delivered a total of 18 heat recovery steam generator (HRSG) modules and one drum vessel via rail



Ready to Make Your Move.

For almost 100 years, deugro has been an industry leader in delivering innovative project freight forwarding solutions to the global energy industry.

From the very beginning, deugro has set the highest standards in defining logistics and delivering safety in successful project execution.

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