Sea-Tac (SEA) Air Cargo: 69% of Washington's Air Freight Right Above the Green River Valley

Pillar: The Corridors | **Basis:** Agency Figure | **Primary Source:** Port of Seattle / WSDOT | **As Of:** 2026-11-16

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport handles roughly 69% of Washington's air cargo (~428,000–460,000 metric tons annually) via freighters and wide-body belly capacity—sitting minutes west of Tukwila and Kent.

Operational Continuity & Corridor Facts

• Sea-Tac (SEA) moves roughly 69% of Washington State's total air cargo, handling ~427,971 to 460,062 metric tons in recent years (with a 2021 peak near 498,750 metric tons).

• Cargo moves through both dedicated all-cargo freighters and wide-body passenger belly-hold capacity.

• Sitting immediately west of Tukwila and Kent, SEA is the primary rapid-expedite valve for space avionics, flight-computer boards, and AOG-style supplier parts.

Sea-Tac (SEA) Air Cargo Benchmarks

Metric	Documented Figure	Source	Space Cluster Use
WA Air Cargo Share	~69% of state total	WSDOT	Dominant commercial air gateway
Annual Volume Range	~427,971–460,062 MT	Port of Seattle	Avionics, electronics, expedite
2021 Pandemic Peak	~498,750 MT	Port of Seattle	Upper historical throughput

Corridor Exposure, Triggers & Facility Actions

• Because SEA sits on the upland plateau west of the Green River Valley, air freighters continue landing even when valley levees breach.

• Last-mile delivery from SEA into Kent or Auburn still traverses SR 518 / I-5 / SR 167—so valley flood closures can trap cleared air freight at airport CFS warehouses.

• Pre-clear ITAR/EAR customs brokers at SEA for expedited aerospace electronics.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **WA Space Cluster Hub (#1382):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-census/

• **Tukwila WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/tukwila-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Kent WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/kent-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Seattle WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/seattle-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Supply-Chain & Procurement Desk Brief:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-role-procurement-lead-desk-brief/

• **Satellite Mfg Continuity Exposure:** https://bcesg.org/wa-satellite-manufacturing-continuity-exposure/

• **Port of Seattle SEA Air Cargo:** https://www.portseattle.org/sea/air-cargo

• **22 CFR Subchapter M (ITAR):** https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-22/chapter-I/subchapter-M

Provenance Note: Air cargo share (69%) and tonnage (~427,971 to 460,062 metric tons; 2021 peak ~498,750 MT) attributed to Port of Seattle and WSDOT.