

(Inter)national supply chains

Insight into overall transport worldwide







Colophon

Guideline 17 - (Inter)national supply chains

Insight into overall transport worldwide

Carbon Footprint in logistics

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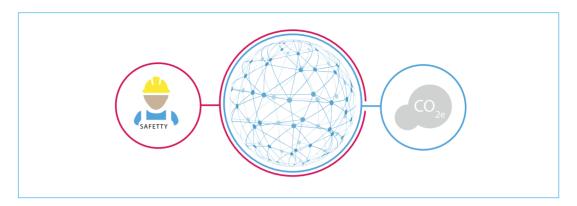
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(Inter)national supply chains

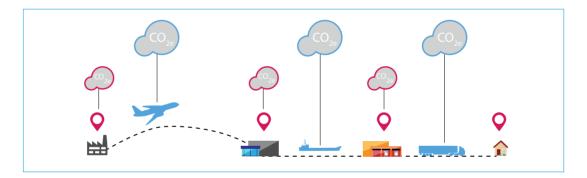
Insight into overall transport worldwide

This guideline deals with the international supply chains that have developed over the past 50 years.



The globalization of production locations, increasing specialization in production and ever more efficient transport have resulted in complex supply chains that span the globe.

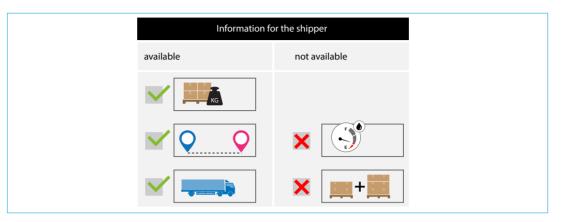
It is becoming more and more important for companies to gain an understanding of their entire chain: ultimately, the public and governments will be demanding accountability across the whole of the chain, whether this relates to good working conditions, pollution or CO_{2e} emissions.



Transport (including transshipment/storage) is the starting point for supply chain accounting. It links production locations and customers together. If these emissions are clearly mapped out, it is relatively easy to add the emissions from production to gain a complete picture.

Information position: from estimating to measuring, starting with the most important

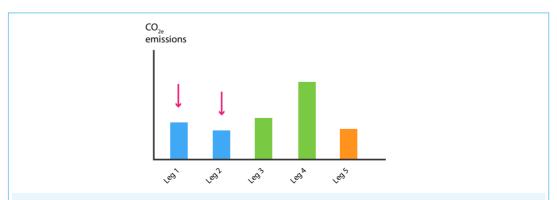
The first challenge for companies (or their service providers) that want to analyze their entire chain is obtaining good, measured information. Due to the high degree of specialization and subcontracting in transport, many different parties actually take care of parts of the chain, but are initially invisible to the final customer.



In most cases there is good knowledge of what the cargo is and what the origin and destination are. The route to be followed and the modes that are used are also known. The problem often lies in inadequate information, or a lack of information, on the allocated emissions (CO_{2e}) for each leg, or on the fuel consumption of the mode used in that leg, as well as on whether the cargo was transported in combination with other cargo. There are tools¹ incorporating models that allow this to be predicted, but it remains a complex process and involves using assumptions to a greater or lesser extent.



The solution involves starting with what you have available: for some parts of the chain you have good, measured information and for others information based more on estimates or derived values, with standard values as a final fallback option. By working with different levels of data quality (see guideline 21) and linking these to the input figures, you can clearly see what the information position is in the calculated results.



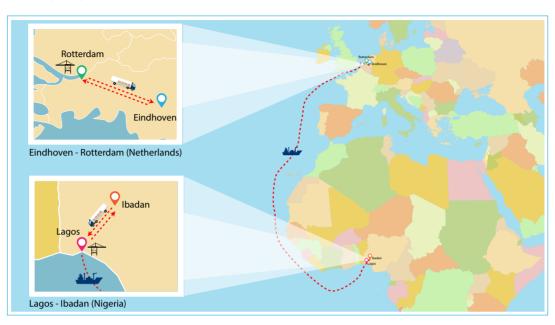
For each leg in a chain you can see the following:

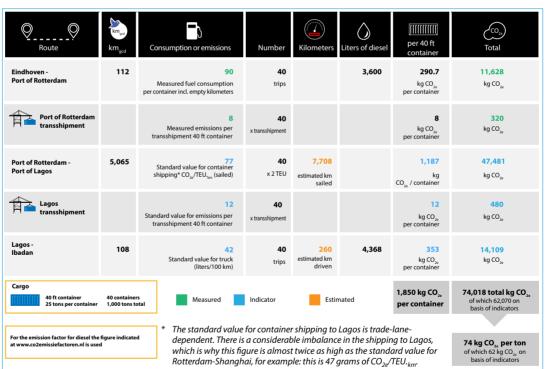
- The size and importance of the CO_{2e} contribution of that leg.
- $\bullet \textit{The reliability of this information (e.g.: 15\% is based on measured data, 85\% is based on standard values).}\\$

1 Such as EcoTransIT

Taking this information together, it quickly becomes apparent where attention needs to be focused: the link that makes the greatest contribution and has the lowest data quality. It is well worth discussing this with service providers. Could the standard value be replaced by a measured value?

An example is presented here.

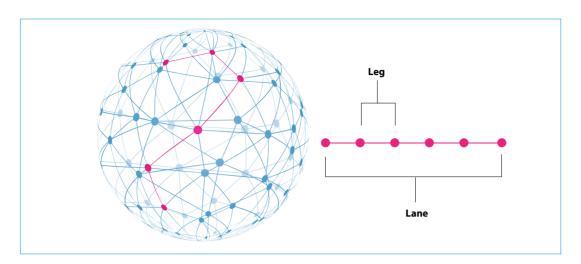




In practice, especially in long international supply chains, all variants may be used at the same time. The basis applied for each fuel or CO_{2e} figure needs to be specified.

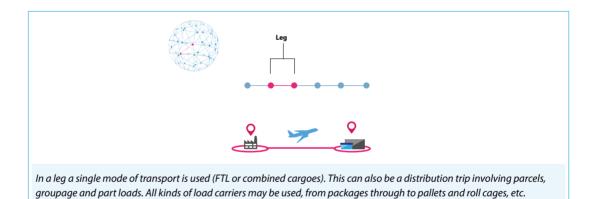
Legs, lanes and overall chain

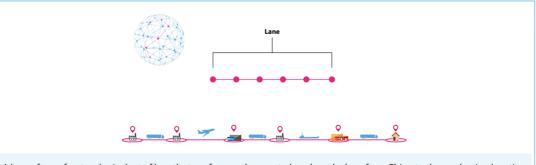
In everyday language a distinction is made between overall chains, lanes and legs.



An overall chain from a production location in China to an assembly plant in the Netherlands, followed by delivery of the end product to a retailer's DC, is made up of individual legs, which are linked together.

The collection of the full container in China for transport to the port, the maritime transport or the collection of the full container at the port in Rotterdam are legs.



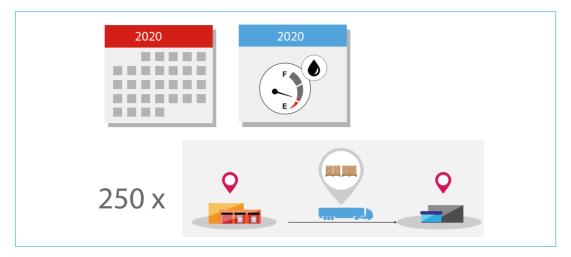


A lane often refers to a logical set of legs that are frequently repeated, such as the lane from China to the production location in the Netherlands. In this case you come across different modes of transport, as well as storage and transshipment.

The term 'supply chain' covers more than just one or more "lanes": this is the entire production chain, including the production stages. A supply chain can consist of one or more lanes, plus additional supply steps. This is considerably more complex than an individual lane.

Aggregated data

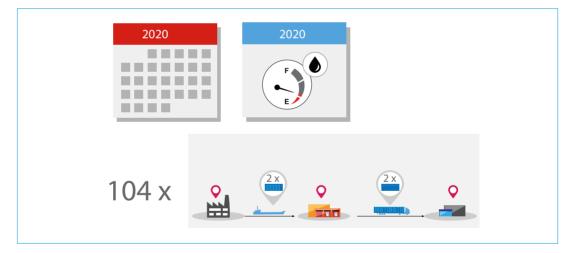
In cases where large volumes of the same type of cargo are shipped with a reasonably predictable purchasing pattern across the year, use is often made of regular transport with a fixed frequency. Aggregated data are commonly used in such a situation.



Etappe/leg

An example is a fixed route with fixed stops, e.g. a line haul (fixed stops, fixed cities/ports/distribution centers) involving a regular exchange of goods at a certain location.

Another example is a regular delivery of 2 pallets a day to a single fixed address, 250 times a year. In such cases it is useful to take the annual or monthly volume and link it to the fuel consumed over the period concerned.



Lane ABC

An example is a fixed lane over which goods are repeatedly transported, e.g. from a producer in Spain to a customer in the Netherlands, by truck, train and then truck again. The steps in the lane are known: a fixed route is always followed, there are fixed modes of transport and the route is repeated regularly.

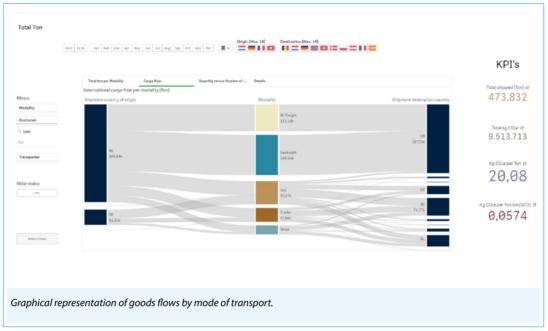
A fixed lane may involve transporting 2 containers of beer a week to the same address in Spain, for example. This can be summarized as 1 lane that is traveled 104 times a year.

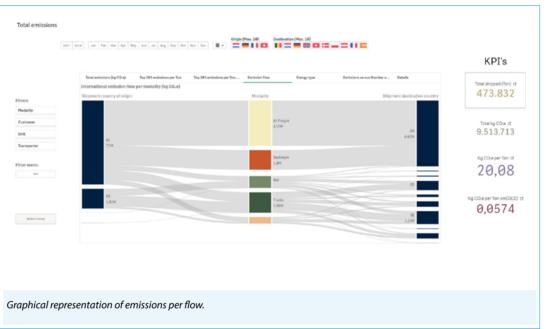
It is customary to take the annual or monthly volume and link it to the fuel consumed over the period concerned.

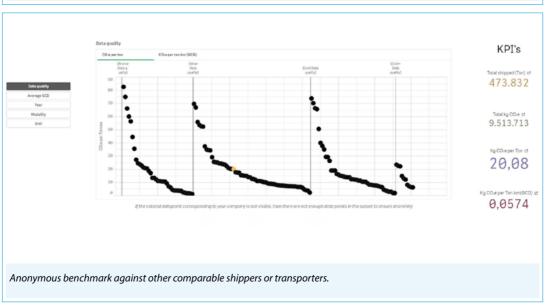
Here again there will be little data relating to certain parts of a lane in the beginning and assumptions will have to be made. That is not a problem, as long as the data quality is clearly indicated and incorporated into the calculations and results. The figures below present a number of analyses that can be derived from good carbon footprint recording. These are examples of analyses that prove to be extremely useful in practice.











Carbon Footprint guidelines

0. Measuring, calculating, allocating and reducing



1. Allocating



2. Cargo



3. Origin and destination



4. Fuel



5. Inland shipping - containers



6. Inland shipping -



7. Freight transport by rail



8. Air freight



9. Maritime and short sea shipping



10. Transshipment



11. Storage



12. Parcel transport and post



13. General road transport



14. Perishable and temperature controlled



15. Outsourced transport



16. Repositioning and empty kilometers



17. (Inter)national supply chains



18. Benchmarking



19. Intermediaries and platforms



20. Auditors and accountants



21. Data quality



22. The relationship between social goals and corporate goals







