



Transport Medium Risk Sector M

Transport of passenger and freight by road, water and air, including related activities like warehousing.

Related Sectors:

- Garages and Petrol Stations
- Tourism and Leisure
- Oil and Gas



Production Processes

The transport sector provides the service of moving people and goods from one place to another. This includes transport on water, land and in the air. Transport may have commercial or recreational purposes. Transport on water may be handled by barges, boats, ships and sailboats. Compared with other transport options, water transport is relatively slow, but costs are low. Sea transport is the most cost-effective method of transporting large quantities of non-perishable goods. Transport on land consists mainly of railways and roads. Both modes of transport need sound infrastructure to function efficiently. Road transport is popular for commercial purposes owing to its low infrastructure costs compared to railway systems, as well as its relatively easy accessibility. Transportation via air is more expensive, but allows passengers and cargo to be transported at high speed to their destination. Auxiliary activities are common in transportation companies and may include the fuelling and maintenance of vehicles, de-icing of aircraft, etc.

Sustainability Issues

H	Energy
L	Water Use
M	Emissions to Water
L	Waste
H	Emissions to Air
M	Ecosystems
L	Workplace Health & Safety
H	Disaster Risk
M	Site Contamination

Sector Rating

- H High risk issue
- M Medium risk issue
- L Low risk issue

Risks & Opportunities

- **Transport consumes large amounts of energy, primarily fossil fuels.**
Energy consumption per passenger or tonne of freight increases from ship transport, over railways and roads to air transport. This exposes transport businesses to supply risks and variations of energy prices. Fossil fuels are a non-renewable source of energy.
- **Fuel combustion entails the emission of exhaust gases to the air. Vehicles and infrastructures such as airports and roads are sources of noise.**
In the areas surrounding of transport infrastructures, levels of air pollution and noise may reach levels that are a nuisance or present a risk to human health and the environment. High levels of emissions, such as in the vicinity of airports, can result in complaints.
- **Accidents during the transportation of hazardous substances may cause environmental disasters.**
Radioactive materials or highly toxic substances can be released during an accident involving transportation, and result in the pollution of a wider area.
- **Transport infrastructures such as airports and harbors can have a significant impact on water quality.**
Ships release bilge and ballast water, solid waste, oil, etc. into harbor basins, where pollutants may accumulate and reach levels harmful to human health and the environment. Wastewater from airports may contain detergents and de-icers.