

Hi all,

I am r2i'ing this summer from Redmond WA to Bangalore India. I wanted to share my experiences with searching for a good shipping company and with getting my goods on their way to India (the first part of the journey).

My goods left for India on June 25th. The planning had started in February or so. I contacted 3 companies - Air7Seas, Sky2C and Worldwide, because all 3 post helpful pointers on this forum and have had decent reviews here. The quickest response to my initial e-mail was from Haresh at Worldwide (20 minutes I think). The others replied a few days from then. The initial conversations were mostly questions from me and answers from them - in all cases Haresh's response - by email and phone were exceptionally quick and very useful.

Based on my communications with him, I decided on a Full container Load (FCL) from Redmond (near Seattle) to Bangalore. I got quotes from all 3 companies. I must say Haresh's was on the higher side, but a little bit of ribbing by email and phone was helpful in bringing the quote down to a more reasonable figure.

Regarding the expenses: The most unacceptable part of the expense for me was the packing and loading expense in Redmond. Since it was almost a third of the total, I told Haresh that I'd like to pack my boxes myself, and choose a company on my own for the loading and furniture-packing part.

Haresh agreed and we decided on "Careful Movers" based on some local recommendations. It turned out that they were careful but not necessarily very professional. They gave us some trouble about having the check on their table before they send their truck out, but eventually relented. The tough part of the move (at least on the US side) is to co-ordinate the moves of the companies involved (WorldWide, the packer, the trucker who hauls the container to your house and maybe the shipping company). Haresh did most of this for us.

Overall from the day the negotiations began to the day the goods were shipped out, he remained in very good contact with us - by phone mostly - keeping us informed of any problems/change in plans etc.

On the day of the move, everything went off without a hitch. The furniture was packed, the container arrived to my apartment on time, all the goods were loaded, and the container left on time. Haresh was in constant touch by cell phone throughout. I understand that the container left the port within a week of the pickup.

General info that may be useful:

- * You can put your own lock on the container, I did.
- * 20ft container was a lot more than I needed. We sent all our stuff (accumulated over 10 years and in a 2-bedroom apartment) and still used up less than a 1/2 of the container.
- * The payments to Worldwide were: advance (about 1/4) before the move, remaining US expenses right after the truck left, and Indian part - yet to be paid in India.

- So far it has been great. I have nothing but praise for Haresh's professionalism. He has assured us of the best service possible, in India. We'll see how it goes and I'll keep you all posted.

Meanwhile, do the planning and make the move, guys! See you all in India!

Regards,

Mr and Mrs Taramani Nair