

Formula 1 logistics – how a whole circus moves 24 times a year

Upcoming episode

How Formula 1 moves from track to track: what goes by air and what goes by sea, why teams keep several identical sets of equipment, how the cars are packed, and why the calendar is a logistics problem.

MAIN TOPICS

- What actually moves between two races
- The split the whole system rests on
- The sea freight kits, and why there are several of them
- The air freight, the pallets and the aircraft
- The packing, and why the cars get their own frames
- The window after the chequered flag
- Weight as a cost
- Why the calendar is a logistics problem

QUESTIONS THIS EPISODE ANSWERS

- How much equipment does a Formula 1 team move between races?
- What goes by air, and what goes by sea?
- Why do teams have several identical sets of equipment?
- How is a Formula 1 car packed?
- How long does it take to pack up after a race?
- Why does weight matter so much in air freight?
- Why is the race calendar a logistics problem?

KEY POINTS

- A team moves around 42 tonnes to an overseas race – 34 by air and 8 by sea.
- What has to be that exact object is flown. What merely has to be identical is duplicated and sent by sea.
- Teams keep several complete sea freight kits that leapfrog each other through the calendar.
- The cars are bolted into bespoke frames, secured to pallets and placed in purpose-built boxes.
- Packing at the factory takes days. Packing up after the flag takes hours.
- Weight is the direct cost in air freight, which makes it an engineering problem in its own right.
- The calendar decides how expensive and how polluting a season will be, before a single race is run.

SOURCES AND REFERENCES

- Formula 1 – How does an F1 team get two cars and 42 tonnes of freight to Australia?

<https://www.formula1.com/en/latest/article/how-does-an-f1-team-get-two-cars-and-42-tonnes-of-freight-to-australia.7980SpcLE9VSvmBA7qGEA5>

- DHL – Inside the World of F1 Logistics
<https://www.dhl.com/global-en/delivered/global-trade/inside-f1-logistics.html>
- Formula 1 – F1 engineers create unique design to revolutionise the sport's off-track logistics
<https://corp.formula1.com/f1-engineers-create-unique-design-to-revolutionise-the-sports-off-track-logistics/>

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