

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2006)
Heft: [4]

Artikel: Cargo Domizil - 25 years of door-to-door service
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854812>

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CARGO DOMIZIL

- 25 years of door-to-door service

Cargo Domizil is a partnership between the SBB, RhB, BLS and the MGB (formerly Visp-Zermatt-Bahn) and 3 logistics companies that since 1981 has combined the advantages of road and rail to collect and deliver groupage consignments for reliable next day delivery throughout Switzerland. The whole system is underpinned with transparent pricing, modern IT infrastructure and additional logistics services with the eleven Cargo Domizil centres across Switzerland allowing local, reliable deliveries.

Cargo Domizil was first created in 1981 as a division of the SBB. Then in 1992 it was part privatised with stakes taken by the SBB, the PTT and about 40 small shareholders before it was taken over in 1996 by the Transvision Joint Venture made up of Camion Transport AG, Galliker Transport AG and Planzer Transport AG. This situation remained unchanged until 2003 when Galliker Transport AG decided to leave the Transvision Joint venture on strategic grounds with Imbach Logistik AG taking over provision of Cargo Domizil services in Central Switzerland.

Switzerland is covered by 11 rail-connected warehouses. Camion Transport AG have facilities at Schwarzenbach (NE Switzerland), Basel and Lausanne; Imbach Logistik AG at Schachen (Canton Luzern); Gebr. Kuoni Chur AG (owned by Planzer) at Chur and Samedan; and Planzer Transport AG at Bioggio (Canton Ticino), Zürich-Alstetten; Sion; Bern and Camouge (Geneva).

There are many advantages with the Cargo Domizil operation to all the partners in the organisation, their customers and to the environment. Local drivers with local knowledge, all wearing Cargo Domizil uniforms, serve the customers and the drivers no longer need to spend time overnight away from their homes. Deliveries are made with vehicles having low noise and exhaust emissions plus vehicle tail-lifts fitted with a layer of rubber to avoid noise when making a drop-off. By being locally based less kilometres need be travelled by the road transport companies and traffic congestion can be avoided. Customers receive multiple



shipments all together on one vehicle and sign for just one Cargo Domizil delivery note whilst they can track their consignments through the system. Damage to goods is avoided as pallet and packet consignments are securely held by straps on road vehicles and by moveable load restraint walls when on sliding wall rail wagons. Cargo Domizil is a future-proof system combining road and rail that is compatible with night-time lorry bans and other potential environmental constraints.

An example timeline for one of the 280 rail wagons crossing Switzerland each night goes as follows:

- 09:00 - A consignment of skis, bindings and boots is received into the La Praille (Lausanne) Cargo Domizil centre from France;
- 10:00 - The checked items start to be sorted according to orders transmitted for sports shops throughout Switzerland;
- 18:00 - The consolidated consignments are loaded onto the appropriate rail wagons;
- 20:30 - A rail wagon departs for the Däniken (Solothurn) marshalling hub;
- 01:00 - The wagon is re-marshalled into the correct train for its destination warehouse;
- 04:00 - The wagon is unloaded at the destination warehouse and the individual consignment is transferred to a delivery vehicle;
- 06:30 - The delivery lorry departs and all the sports items will be delivered in the next 4 to 6 hours to the appropriate sports shops in the Solothurn area.

This article is based on information taken from the Cargo Domizil website. There is a good photo of the Schachen road/rail operation on the Imbach Logistik AG link from the Cargo Domizil website.