

Boeing 747F to Mexico

MACOGA managed record-breaking air freight move. Heaviest cargo of Expansion Joint ever shipped by Air requires chartering Boeing 747F, the Jumbo Freighter.

A number of eight Hinged and Lateral Tied Expansion Joints of 2100 mm (82") diameter and with a length of 660 and 9500 mm respectively have been designed and manufactured in an amazing record time of 10 days under MACOGA PREMIUM SERVICE.

The extraordinary flight carrying a weight over 55 Tons (110,000 pound) is considered to be one of the heaviest shipments of Expansion Joints ever transported via air freight.

This cargo required chartering a complete Boeing 747F, the Jumbo Freighter and flew from Madrid Airport (MAD) directly to Monterrey (MTY) in Mexico. This cargo would normally be transported by sea but the customer was in an emergency situation and required a faster solution.

The end user, the Monterrey Cogeneration facility, exports electricity to three major Mexican industrial groups: Vitro, Imsa and Apasco. Clean burning natural gas is the only fuel used by this facility and it is supplied by Pemex Gas Petroquímica Básica. On March 3, 2012, Tractebel Energia de Monterrey reported an explosion in their facility while performing maintenance activities. This incident caused the interruption of electrical power and steam generated by Tractebel, operating partner of Vitro under the scheme of

self-sufficiency. Since that date, the service has not been restored, generating an increase in the cost of electricity for Vitro. Vitro, one of the largest glass manufacturers in the world, has implemented extraordinary measures to minimize the impact of this incident which, according to the latest information, it is estimated would have an economic impact of up to \$ 16 million.

The shipment, consisting on 18 oversized parts with a total weight of 55 Tons, tested the capabilities of the aircraft and staff to the full. "Carrying this oversized cargo of a weight 55 Tons was very challenging" said Andreas Mattick, Managing Director of Rock-it Cargo GmbH. "The highest level of care and precision planning was required by ground-handling operations at both airports. The weight had to be spread along the aircraft's structure and the shape of the cases was such that they could potentially have moved during the flight so we had to ensure there was sufficient restraint in every direction."

