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Sustainable Transport of Goods: Tackling backstage challenges of the hospitality industry

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Learning goals

After studying this chapter, readers will have the ability to:

- 1 Define sustainable procurement and its link to profit, people and planet;
- 2 Describe the main sustainability challenges faced by transport and purchases;
- 3 Provide examples of how to tackle challenges faced by sustainable transport and purchases;
- 4 Identify good practices in sustainable transport and purchases.

Introduction

The tourism supply chain can be defined as “a network of tourism organizations engaged in different activities ranging from the supply side to the distribution and marketing of the final tourism product; it involves a wide range of participants in both the private and public sectors” (Zhang *et al.*, 2009: 345). Hotels, restaurants, cafes and other hospitality-related companies are at the heart of this network of tourism organizations. Vujošević (2004) and Quah and Zulkifli (2011) show that taking small steps in any area of the supply chain can have large effects within the company and can have a positive impact on the competitive advantage of the company. Management of this supply chain and, within it, transport and logistics management are therefore also named as the areas where efficacy and effectiveness of economic systems can be achieved. The logistic supply chain can be seen as a system of links between partners who are all part of the distribution channel that supplies buyers and consumers with products and materials. Only when the product of choice is delivered to the right place in the right time, with optimized amounts under