

HISTORICAL SAAB

An interesting article translated from SAABS internal Magazine VIPS (VI PÅ SAAB), No-4, 1962, Page 13.

DIREKTSKEPPNING AV BILAR FRÅN TROLLHÄTTAN TILL ENGLAND.

DIRECT SHIPPING OF SAAB CARS FROM TROLLHÄTTAN TO ENGLAND.



Photo taken 1962: Loading of new SAABS bound for England.

New SAABS can now also be shipped directly from Trollhättan to England. Instead of driving new cars to the nearby west coast ports of Uddevalla and Gothenburg a special ship has been commissioned to transport cars directly from the ship-canal docks close to the production facility in Trollhättan.

Erik Granlund, Saabs shipping manager explains:

Due to the recent sales increase of new Saabs in England, the company has now found a quicker alternative for the export of new cars to England.

Earlier, Saab utilised portal shipping companies, however, cars often arrived at their destinations with scratched and damaged body panels. They were sharing deck space with other large goods and machinery.

To minimise damage protective coverings were needed to be secured protecting body panels prior to loading -both an expensive and time-consuming operation!

We have therefore now commissioned a new cargo-ship specifically adapted for transporting SAAB cars directly from the dock in Trollhättan.

The ship has several individual decks with anchoring points for each car. Each deck can be raised and lowered according to the number of cars needing to be shipped.

We are now able to determine specific sailing dates and ensure carefully loading of cars in the ship's cargo hold. Protective body panel coverings are now not needed to the same extent as previously.



Photo: Cars ready to be loaded onto the transport ship in Trollhättan.

With better control over transport costs and delivery times SAAB can now accurately predict the ships arrival date in England. The whole shipping procedure has been greatly improved respecting also the shipping companies right to choose the final port of arrival (weather dependent).

For the most part of the year, loading can take place from the dock in Trollhättan, however, upon a harsh winter and the waterway being frozen in winter we will need to revert to close-by ice-free port in Uddevalla.

Off-loading of the cars is done at the port of Felixstowe located on England's eastern coast. The port of Felixstowe has been recommended by Saabs sister company in the UK in order to avoid frequent strikes by workers at the docks in London.

It is now also possible to synchronise sailings depending on the months of the year and prevailing weather conditions.