

FREIGHT DICTIONARY

Accessorial Fees	Charges for service beyond standard transportation pricing. Such fees would include special pickup or delivery on domestic shipments, and documentation and communication fees for international shipments
Actual Gross Weight	The full weight of a shipment, including goods and packaging.
Air Waybill	A bill of lading that covers both domestic and international flights transporting goods to a specified destination. This is non-negotiable and serves as a receipt for the shipper, indicating that the carrier has accepted the goods listed and obligating it to carry the consignment to the airport of destination according to specified conditions
Bill of Sale	This document is a confirmation of the transfer of ownership of certain goods to another person
Bonded Warehouses	This facility is authorized by Customs authorities for storage or processing of goods. No Customs duties are incurred until the goods are removed
C.A.F. (Currency Adjustment Factor)	Additional charge on ocean freight, expressed as a percentage of a base rate, which reflects adjustments to costs based on foreign currency exchange rates.
CARRIER	Any person or entity who, in a contract of carriage, undertakes to perform or to procure the performance of carriage by rail, road, sea, air, inland waterway, or by a combination of such modes
Certificate of Origin	A document certifying in which country the goods were produced. Used in international commerce
Claim	A demand for payment made upon a transportation line due to loss sustained through its alleged negligence
Classification	A publication, such as The Uniform Freight Classification (railroad) or the National Motor Freight Classification (motor carrier), that assigns ratings to various articles and provides bill of lading descriptions and rules
Classification Rating	The designation provided in a classification by which a class rate is determined
Clean Bill of Lading	A receipt for goods issued by a carrier with an indication that the goods were received in apparent good order and condition without damage or other irregularities
Commercial Invoice	Represents a complete record of the transaction between exporter and importer with regard to the goods sold. Also reports the content of the shipment and serves as the basis for all other documents concerning the shipment
Commodity	Article shipped. For dangerous and hazardous cargo, the correct commodity identification is crucial
Consignee	The person or company (named in the bill of lading) to whom commodities are shipped. The owner of the cargo

Consignment	Goods in transit under a bill of lading; the delivery of merchandise from an exporter (the consignor) to an agent (the consignee) under agreement that the agent sell the merchandise for the exporter's account
Consignor	The person or company shown as the shipper on the bill of lading
Container	A truck trailer body that can be detached from the chassis for loading into a vessel or a rail car or stacked in a container depot. Containers may be ventilated, insulated, refrigerated, flat rack, vehicle rack, open top, high cube, bulk liquid, or equipped with interior devices. A container may be 20 feet, 40 feet, 45 feet, 48 feet, or 53 feet in length; 8'0" or 8'6" in width; and 8'6" or 9'6" in height
Customs	The authorities designated to collect duties on imports and exports that are levied by a country (also applying to the procedures involved in such collection). They are responsible for ensuring that no illegal importation takes place
Dim Weight	Freight charges calculated by the cubic dimension (total cubic inches). This measurement, along with the weight of the pieces shipped, is typically used by airfreight carriers to determine their freight charges
Dock Receipt	A receipt issued to acknowledge receipt of a shipment at the carrier's dock or warehouse facilities. When delivery of a foreign shipment is completed, the dock receipt is surrendered to the vessel operator or agent and serves as a basis for preparation of Bill of Lading
Force Majeure	The title of a standard clause in marine contract that relieves the parties for responsibility upon non-fulfillment of their obligations resulting from conditions beyond their control (such as earthquakes, floods, or war)
Free Trade Zone	A country's government designates this area, where any non-prohibited merchandise may enter duty-free. In this zone goods may be used in manufacturing, put on display, warehoused, etc., and re-exportation is also duty-free if the merchandise should pass from the zone into another area of the country
General Tariff	A tariff that applies to countries that do not enjoy either preferential or most-favored-nation tariff treatment. When the general tariff rate differs from the most-favored-nation rate, the general rate is usually the higher rate
LCL (Less than Container Load)	The quantity of freight less than that required for the application of a container load rate. Loose Freight.
LTL (Less than truckload)	This term typically refers to shipments of 150 – 10,000 pounds, not requiring the full use of a trailer
N.M.F.C. (National Motor Freight Classic)	(National Motor Freight Classic) A listing of items used to determine the "class" of a particular item shipped. The class of the item along with the weight and distance traveled, is a determinant of the freight charge
Net Weight	Weight of the goods alone without any immediate wrappings; e.g., the weight of the contents of a tin can excluding the can's weight

O.B.L. (Ocean Bill of Lading)	Document that indicates that the exporter will consign a shipment to an international carrier for transportation to a specified foreign market and defines the terms of the contract of carriage. It serves as a collection document. If it is a straight B/L, the foreign buyer can obtain the shipment from the carrier by simply showing proof of identity. If a negotiable B/L is used, the buyer must first pay for the goods, post a bond, surrender the original B/L, or meet other conditions agreed upon by the seller
Pallet	A flat metal or wood bottom for cargo
Payee	A party named as the beneficiary of funds. Under letters of credit, the payee is either the drawer of the draft or a bank
Payer	A party responsible for the payment as evidenced by the given instrument. Under letters of credit, the payer is the party on whom the draft is drawn, usually the drawee bank
Port of Entry	At this port foreign goods are admitted into the receiving country. The Customs authority designated this point where goods are examined and go through clearance
Power of Attorney	A method a company uses to assign authority to another company or person to perform a certain function on the behalf of the first company
S.E.D. (Shipper's Export Document)	An U.S. Commerce Department document describing all goods exported from the U.S. The shipper of the goods is responsible to make sure the document is filled out correctly, even though it may be done as a service for them by a freight forwarder or an NVOCC. This official document must be submitted by a U.S. exporter whenever a shipment of merchandise goes from the U.S. to a foreign destination. The joint Bureau of Census-International Trade Administration issues this form used for compiling U.S. export control laws. In it the shipper shows the value, weight, consignee, destination, etc., of export shipments as well as the Schedule B identification number
Schedule B	Refers to Schedule B, Statistical Classification of Domestic and Foreign Commodities Exported from the United States. A number assigned to each commodity being exported from the Harmonized Tariff