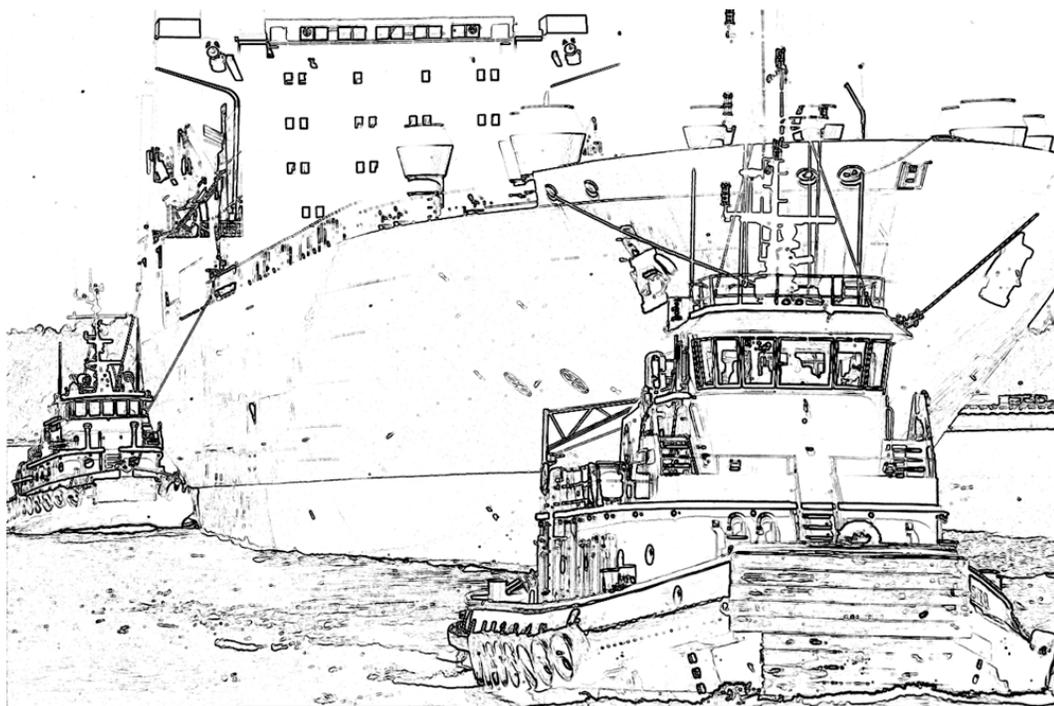


Glossary of Shipping Terms



**U. S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration**



Glossary of Shipping Terms

APRIL 2005



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Maritime Administration
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Seattle, WA 98124-4348
Mr. Mike Parks
Phone: 386-445-2755
Email: cmcinc@Bellsouth.net
Web Page URL:
<http://www.aml.lynden.com>

AHL SHIPPING COMPANY

365 Canal Street, Suite 2400
New Orleans, LA 70130
Capt. Jere M. White,
Mgr of Operations
Phone: 504-522-3300
FAX: 504-522-5400
Email: jwhite@ahlsc.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.ahlsc.com>

AMERICA CARGO TRANSPORT, INC.

16300 Christensen Road, Suite 203
Seattle, WA 98188
Contact: Ms. Helen Foster
Phone: 206-243-1800
FAX: 206-243-1801
Email: helen@joreintl.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.joreinternational.com/act/>

AMERICAN AUTOMAR

6550 Rock Spring Drive, Suite 300
Bethesda, MD 20817

Contact: Mr. R. Bruce Carleton
Phone: (301) 571-0100
FAX: (301) 571-1450
Email: bcarleton@automar.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.automar.com>

AMERICAN ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF CARRIER, LLC

85 Chestnut Ridge Road
Montvale, NJ 07645
Gloria Bastone,
Customer Service
201-571-0444
jbambrick@arrcnet.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.rrcnet.com>

APL

1667 K Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006

Customer Service: 1-800-999-7733
Web Page URL: <http://www.apl.com>

CENTRAL GULF LINES, INC.

c/o Washington Maritime Shipping Corporation
1030 15th Street, NW
Suite 220
Washington, DC 20005

Contact: Mr. Warren A. Hayden
Phone: 202-833-9892
FAX: 202-789-2636
Email: WHayden603@aol.com
Web Page URL: <http://www.waterman-steamship.com/CGL/CGLlink.html>

COLUMBIA COASTAL TRANSPORT, LLC

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Liberty Corner, NJ 07938

Contact: Mr. Joe Villa
(VP Operations)
Phone: 908-991-0001
FAX: 908-580-1000
Email: jvilla@columbiacoastal.com
Web Page URL: <http://www.columbia-coastal.com>

CROWLEY MARITIME CORP.

CROWLEY MARINE SERVICES INC.

CROWLEY LINER SERVICES INC.

2121 Eisenhower Ave.
Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22314

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FAX: 703-684-1721
Email: ed.fortunato@crowley.com
Web Page URL: <http://www.crowley.com>

FABC CORPORATION

475 Wall Street
Princeton, NJ 08540

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Phone: 609-683-4522
FAX: 609-689-9633
Email:
leback@firstclassweb.com

FARRELL LINES - PONL

One Meadowlands Plaza
East Rutherford,
New Jersey 07073

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Phone: 201-896-6240
FAX: 201-896-6268
Email: A.Kristbergs@ponl.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.ponl.com>

FOSS MARITIME COMPANY

660 W. Ewing Street
Seattle, WA 98119

Contact: Marlin Schoonmaker
(re. DELTA MARINER)
Don McElroy
Paul Gallagher

Phone: 206-281-3982
(Marlin Schoonmaker)
206-281-3856 (Don McElroy)
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FAX: 206-301-0748 or
206-301-0745
Email: marlin@foss.com
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(Paul Gallagher)
Web Page URL:
<http://www.foss.com>

GLOBAL CONTAINER LINES

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Garden City, NY 11530 New York,
USA
TEL (516) 222-0707
FAX (516) 222-0377
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GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL MARINE

P.O. Box 6031
Houma, LA 70360
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Fax: 985-868-7759
Email: rayf@gimc.net
or
gimc@gimc.net

HORIZON LINES, LLC

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Suite 350 West
Charlotte, NC 28211

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www.horizon-lines.com

INTERMARINE, L.L.C.

519 N. Sam Houston Parkway East
Suite 400
Houston, TX 77060

Contact: Paul Wilson
Vice President, U.S. Flag Services
Phone: 281-260-2300
FAX: 281-260-2350
Email: paul@intermarineusa.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.intermarineusa.com>

K-SEA TRANSPORTATION CORP.

3245 Richmond Terrace
Staten Island, NY 10303

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FAX: 718-448-3083
Email: ceklofjr@k-sea.com
Web Page URL: www.k-sea.com

LIBERTY MARITIME CORPORATION

1979 Marcus Avenue, Suite 200
Lake Success, NY 11042

Contact: Capt. David O. Hussey
Vice President of Operations
Phone: 516-488-8800
FAX: 516-488-8806
Email:
operations@libertymar.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.libertymar.com>

**LYKES LINES LIMITED, LLC
(parent company CP Ships)**

401 East Jackson Street
Suite 3300
Tampa, FL 33602

Contact: Mr. Michael Cunningham
Phone: 813-209-4943
FAX: 813-276-4619

Email: MCUNNINGHAM@LYKESLINES.COM
Web Page URL: <http://www.lykeslines.com>

MAERSK LINE, LIMITED

120 Corporate Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23502-4952

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Senior Vice President
Phone: 757-852-3201
FAX: 757-852-3220
Email: scarmel@mllnet.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.maersklinelimited.com>

MAERSK SEALAND

Government Sales and Marketing
Maersk Line, Limited
1530 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209

Contact: Tony Nowotarski
Phone: 703-351-0109
FAX: 703-351-0130
Email: TNowotarski@mllnet.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.maersksealand.com>

MATSON NAVIGATION COMPANY

555 12th Street
Oakland, CA 94607

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Phone: 510-628-4200
FAX: 510-986-1947
Email: mgarvin@matson.com
Web Page URL: <http://www.matson.com>

MAYBANK SHIPPING COMPANY INC.

525 East Bay Street, Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29403

Contact: Mr. Jack Maybank
Mr. Jack Maybank, Jr.
Mr. J. Philip Tomlinson
Phone: 843-723-7891
FAX: 843-723-7894
Email: maybank@maybankshipping.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.maybankshipping.com>

MCALLISTER FEEDER LINES, INC.

17 Battery Place
New York, NY 10004-1260

Contact: Mr. Buckley McAllister
Vice President
Phone: 212-269-3200
FAX: 212-509-1147
Email:
Buck@mcallistertowing.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.mcallistertowing.com>

MOBY MARINE CORPORATION

219 Fisherman's Wharf
Fort Pierce, FL 34950 Contact:
Mr. Jimmy Griffin/Mr. Bob Remmer
Phone: 772-429-2729
FAX: 772-429-2723
Email: MobyMarine@aol.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.MobyMarine.com>

MORAN TOWING CORPORATION

50 Locust Avenue
New Canaan, CT 06840
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FAX: (203) 442-2857
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www.morantug.com

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6701 Fox Ave. S.
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OSG SHIP MANAGEMENT, INC.

511 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10017

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Des Allemands, LA 70030
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SEA STAR LINE, LLC

100 Bell Tel Way, Suite 300
Jacksonville, FL 32216

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<http://www.superiormarinesvcs.com>

TECO OCEAN SHIPPING

1300 East 8th Avenue, Suite S-300
Tampa, FL 33605

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813-209-4258(Cliff Johnson)

FAX: 813-242-4849
Email: cliff.johnson@tecoenergy.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.tecooceanshipping.com>

TIDEWATER MARINE, L.L.C.

Towing Division
P.O. Box 1708
Amelia, LA 70340

Contact: William Scott
Traffic Manager, Towing Division
985-631-5700
FAX: 985-631-5701
Email: bscott@tdw.com
Web Page URL: <http://www.tdw.com>

TOTEM OCEAN TRAILER EXPRESS, INC.

P.O. Box 4129
Federal Way, WA 98063-4129

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TRAILER BRIDGE, INC.

10405 New Berlin Road East
Jacksonville, FL 32226

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Email:
jcruise@trailerbridge.com
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<http://www.trailerbridge.com>

TRANSATLANTIC LINES LLC

120 Greenwich Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830

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FAX: 203-863-9354
Email: Brose@mthopeco.com
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STRONG VESSEL OPERATORS

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46 Southfield Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902-7236
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CELL: 203-705-4536
FAX: 203-705-4528
Email: voss@vosusa.com
Web Page URL:
<http://www.vosshipping.com>

WATERMAN STEAMSHIP CORP.

One Whitehall Street
New York, NY 10004-2109
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Phone: 212-747-8550
FAX: 212-747-8588
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Web Page URL:
<http://www.waterman-steamship.com>

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Preface

The terms in this glossary have been carefully selected from the myriad of terms one can encounter in the shipping business. We hope you will find it useful.

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A

AA (Always Afloat)

In some ports the ship aground when approaching, or at berth.

AAR

Abbreviation for:

- Against All Risks (insurance clause).
- Association of American Railroads.

Abaft

A point, towards the rear or stern; behind something, such as "abaft the main mast."

Abandon

A proceeding wherein a shipper or consignee seeks authority to abandon all or parts of their cargo.

Abatement

A discount allowed for damage or overcharge in the payment of a bill.

ABI (Automated Broker Interface)

U.S. Customs' "Automated Broker Interface," by which brokers file importers' entries electronically.

Aboard

Referring to cargo being put, or laden, onto a means of conveyance.

Absorption

One carrier assumes the charges of another without any increase in charges to the shipper.

Acceptance

- A time draft (or bill of exchange) that the drawee (payer) has accepted and is unconditionally obligated to pay at maturity.
- Broadly speaking, any agreement***
- to purchase goods under specified terms.

Accessorial Charges

Charges that are applied to the base tariff rate or base contract rate, e.g., bunkers, container, currency, destination/delivery.

ACE

- The new U.S. Customs "Automated Commercial Environment" for filing cargo documentation
- Also an abbreviation for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Acquiescence

When a bill of lading is accepted or signed by a shipper or shipper's agent without protest, the shipper is said to acquiesce to the terms, giving a silent form of consent.

Acquittance

A written receipt in full, in discharge from all claims.

ACS (A.C.S.)

U.S. Customs' master computer system, "Automated Commercial Systems."

Act of God

An act beyond human control, such as lightning, flood or earthquake.

Ad Valorem

A term from Latin meaning, "according to value." Usually refers to a tax, duty, or charge based on the cargo's value.

Administrative Law Judge

A representative of a government commission or agency vested with power to administer oaths, examine witnesses, take testimony, and conduct hearings of cases submitted to, or initiated by, that agency. Also called Hearing Examiner.

Admiralty (Adm.)

Refers to marine legal matters such as an Admiralty Court.

Advance

To move cargo up line to a vessel leaving sooner than the one booked. (See "Roll.")

Advanced Charge

Transportation charge advanced by one carrier to another to be collected by the later carrier from the consignor or consignee.

Adventure

Shipment of goods on shipper's own account. A bill of adventure is a document signed by the master of the ship that carries goods at owner's risk.

Advice of Shipment

A notice sent to a local or foreign buyer advising that shipment has gone forward and containing details of packing, routing, etc. A copy of the invoice is often enclosed and, if desired, a copy of the bill of lading.

Advising Bank

A bank operating in the seller's country, that handles letters of credit on behalf of a foreign bank.

AES

Automated export system. System used by U.S. Customs for filing export documentations.

Affreightment, Contract of

An agreement by an ocean carrier to provide cargo space on a vessel at a specified time and for a specified price to accommodate an exporter or importer.

Aft

Back end of a vessel or movement toward the stern (back end) of a vessel.

Agency Tariff

Outlines charges (such as agency fee) assessed by agents for acting as protecting or husbanding for ships calling at port.

Agent (Agt.)

A person authorized to transact business for and in the name of another person or company. Types of agents are:

1. brokers
2. manufacturer's representatives
3. commission merchants
4. resident buyers
5. sales agents
6. vessel agents

Aggregate Shipment

Numerous shipments from different shippers to one consignee that are consolidated and treated as a single consignment.

Agreed valuation

The value of a shipment agreed upon in order to secure a specific freight rate.

Agreed Weight

The weight prescribed by agreement between carrier and shipper for goods shipped in certain packages or in a certain number.

A.I.D.

Agency for International Development.

Air Waybill

The forwarding agreement or carrying agreement between shipper and air carrier and is issued only in nonnegotiable form.

All In

The total price to move cargo from origin to destination, inclusive of all charges.

Alongside

A phrase referring to the side of a ship. Goods delivered "alongside" are to be placed on the dock or barge within reach of the transport ship's tackle so that they can be loaded.

Alternative Rates

Privilege to use the rate producing the lowest charge.

Ambient Temperature

The temperature of a surrounding body. The ambient temperature of a container is the atmospheric temperature to which it is exposed.

American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)

U.S. classification society which certifies seagoing vessels for compliance to standardized rules regarding construction and maintenance.

AMS

The U.S. Customs' "Automated Manifest System."

Anti-Dumping Duty

A tariff imposed to discourage sale of foreign goods, subsidized to sell at low prices detrimental to local manufacturers.

Any Quantity (A.Q.)

Usually refers to a rating that applies to an article regardless of size or quantity.

Apparent Good Order

When freight appears to be free of damage so far as a general survey can determine.

Appraisement

Determination of the dutiable value of imported merchandise by a Customs official who follows procedures outlined in their country's tariff, such as the U.S. Tariff Act of 1930.

Appraiser's Stores

The warehouse or public stores to which samples of imported goods are taken to be inspected, analyzed, weighed, etc. by examiners or appraisers.

Arbitrary

A stated amount over a fixed rate to one destination to make a rate to another destination.

Average

See insurance.

Arrival Notice

A notification by carrier of ship's arrival to the consignee, the "Notify Party," and - when applicable - the "Also Notify Party." These parties in interest are listed in blocks 3, 4 and 10, respectively, of the Bill of Lading.

ASC X12

American Standards Committee X12 responsible for developing EDI standards for the United States.

Assignment

A term commonly used in connection with a bill of lading. It involves the transfer of rights, title and interest in order to assign goods by endorsing the bill of lading.

Astern

- Behind a vessel
- Move in a reverse direction.

A.T.A.

American Trucking Association.

ATDNSHINC

Any time Day or Night Sundays & Holidays Included.

Athwartships

A direction across the width of a vessel.

Avoirdupois Pound

Same as 0.4535924277 kilograms.

AWWL

Always within Institute Warranties Limits (Insurance purpose).

B

BB

Abbreviation for:

- Ballast Bonus (Special payment above the Chartering price when the ship has to sail a long way on ballast to reach the loading port.)
- Bareboat (Method of chartering of the ship leaving the charterer with almost all the responsibilities of the owner.)
- Breakbulk (packaged cargo that is not containerized).

B/L

Abbreviation for "Bill of Lading."

Backhaul

To haul a shipment back over part of a route it has traveled.

BAF

Abbreviation for "Bunker Adjustment Factor." Used to compensate steamship lines for fluctuating fuel costs. Sometimes called "Fuel Adjustment Factor" or FAF.

Balloon Freight

Light, bulky articles. Usually related to volume cargo

Bank Guarantee

Guarantee issued by a bank to a carrier to be used in lieu of lost or misplaced original negotiable bill of lading.

Barratry

An act committed by the master or mariners of a vessel, for some unlawful or fraudulent purpose, contrary to their duty to the owners, whereby the latter sustain injury. It may include negligence, if so gross as to evidence fraud.

Barrel (BBL)

A term of measure referring to 42 gallons of liquid at 60° degrees F. 15°C.

Base Rate

A tariff term referring to ocean rate less accessorial charges, or simply the base tariff rate.

BCO

Abbreviation for "Beneficial Cargo Owner." Refers to the exporter or importer of record, who has a tangible interest in the cargo. Typically holds title to the goods

Beam

The width of a ship.

Belt Line

A switching railroad operating within a commercial area.

Bends

Both Ends (load and discharge port) – A term used in cargo freight tenders that helps to describe the load and discharge terms for a cargo. For example, if Full Berth Terms (FBT) applies to the loading and discharging of the cargo the term FBT BENDS would be used.

Beneficiary

- Entity to whom money is payable.
- The entity for whom a letter of credit is issued.
- The seller and the drawer of a draft.

Berth Terms

Shipped under rate that includes cost from end of ship's tackle at load port to end of ship's tackle at discharge port. Dependent upon "local customs of the port", it may include movement away from the side of the vessel.

Beyond

Used with reference to charges assessed for cargo movement past a line-haul terminating point.

Bilateral

A contract term meaning both parties agree to provide something for the other.

Bill of Exchange

In the United States, commonly known as a "Bank Draft", or unconditional order in writing to pay a certain sum of money to a named person or company.

Bill of Lading (B/L)

A document that establishes the terms of a contract between a shipper and a transport company. It serves as a document of title, a contract of carriage and a receipt for goods.

- **Amended B/L:** B/L requiring updates that do not change financial status; this is slightly different from corrected B/L.
- **B/L Terms & Conditions:** Is the fine print on B/L; defines what the carrier can and cannot do, including the carrier's liabilities and contractual agreements.
- **B/L's Status:** represents whether the bill of lading has been input, rated, reconciled, printed, or released to the customer.
- **B/L's Type:** refers to the type of B/L being issued. Some examples are: a Memo (ME), Original (OBL), Non-negotiable, Corrected (CBL) or Amended (AM) B/L, copy non-negotiable B/L.
- **Canceled B/L:** B/L status; used to cancel a processed B/L; usually per shipper's request; different from voided B/L.
- **Clean B/L:** A B/L which bears no superimposed clause or notation which declares a defective condition of the goods and/or the packaging.
- **Combined B/L:** B/L that covers cargo moving over various transports.
- **Consolidated B/L:** B/L combined or consolidated from two or more B/L's.
- **Corrected B/L:** B/L requiring any update which results in money -- or other financially related changes.
- **Domestic B/L:** Non-negotiable B/L primarily containing routing details; usually used by truckers and freight forwarders.
- **Duplicate B/L:** Another original Bill of Lading set if first set is lost. Also known as reissued B/L.
- **Express B/L:** Non-negotiable B/L where there are no paper copies printed of originals.
- **Freight B/L:** A contract of carriage between a shipper and forwarder (who is usually a NVOCC); a non-negotiable document.
- **Government B/L (GBL):** A bill of lading issued by the U.S. government.
- **Hitchment B/L:** B/L covering parts of a shipment which are loaded at more than one location. Hitchment B/L usually consists of two parts, hitchment and hitchment memo. The hitchment portion usually covers the majority of a divided shipment and carries the entire revenue.
- **House B/L:** B/L issued by a freight forwarder or consolidator covering a single shipment containing the names, addresses and specific description of the goods shipped.
- **Intermodal B/L:** B/L covering cargo moving via multimodal means. Also known as Combined Transport B/L, or Multimodal B/L.
- **Long Form B/L:** B/L form with all Terms & Conditions written on it. Most B/L's are short form which incorporate the long form clauses by reference.
- **Memo B/L:** Unfreighted B/L with no charges listed.

- **Military B/L:** B/L issued by the U.S. military; also known as GBL, or Form DD1252.

- **B/L Numbers:** U.S. Customs' standardized B/L numbering format to facilitate electronic communications and to make each B/L number unique.

- **Negotiable B/L:** The B/L is a title document to the goods, issued "to the order of" a party, usually the shipper, whose endorsement is required to effect its negotiation. Thus, a shipper's order (negotiable) B/L can be bought, sold, or traded while goods are in transit and is commonly used for letter-of-credit transactions. The buyer must submit the original B/L to the carrier in order to take possession of the goods.

- **Non-Negotiable B/L:** See Straight B/L. Sometimes means a file copy of a B/L.

- **"Onboard" B/L:** B/L validated at the time of loading to transport. Onboard Air, Boxcar, Container, Rail, Truck and Vessel are the most common types.

- **Optional Discharge B/L:** B/L covering cargo with more than one discharge point option possibility.

- **"Order" B/L:** See Negotiable B/L.

- **Original B/L:** The part of the B/L set that has value, especially when negotiable; rest of set are only informational file copies. Abbreviated as OBL.

- **Received for Shipment B/L:** Validated at time cargo is received by ocean carrier to commence movement but before being validated as "Onboard".

- **Reconciled B/L:** B/L set which has completed a prescribed number of edits between the shipper's instructions and the actual shipment received. This produces a very accurate B/L.

- **Short Term B/L:** Opposite of Long Form B/L, a B/L without the Terms & Conditions written on it. Also known as a Short Form B/L. The terms are incorporated by reference to the long form B/L.

- **Split B/L:** One of two or more B/L's which have been split from a single B/L.
- **Stale B/L:** A late B/L; in banking, a B/L which has passed the time deadline of the L/C and is void.

- **Straight (Consignment) B/L:** Indicates the shipper will deliver the goods to the consignee. It does not convey title (non-negotiable). Most often used when the goods have been pre-paid.

- **"To Order" B/L:** See Negotiable B/L.

- **Unique B/L Identifier:** U.S. Customs' standardization: four-alpha code unique to each carrier placed in front of nine digit B/L number; APL's unique B/L Identifier is "APLU".. These prefixes are also used as the container identification.

- **Voided B/L:** Related to Consolidated B/L; those B/L's absorbed in the combining process. Different from Canceled B/L.

Bill of Lading Port of Discharge

Port where cargo is discharged from mode of transport.

Bill of Sale

Confirms the transfer of ownership of certain goods to another person in return for money paid or loaned.

Bill to Party

Customer designated as party paying for services.

Billed Weight

The weight shown in a waybill and freight bill, i.e, the invoiced weight.

Blanket Bond

A bond covering a group of persons, articles or properties.

Blanket Rate

- A rate applicable to or from a group of points.
- A special rate applicable to several different articles in a single shipment.

Blanket Waybill

A waybill covering two or more consignments of freight.

Blind Shipment

A B/L wherein the paying customer has contracted with the carrier that shipper or consignee information is not given.

Block Stowage

Stowing cargo destined for a specific location close together to avoid unnecessary cargo movement.

Blocked Trains

Railcars grouped in a train by destination so that segments (blocks) can be uncoupled and routed to different destinations as the train moves through various junctions. Eliminates the need to break up a train and sort individual railcars at each junction.

Blocking or Bracing

Wood or metal supports (Dunnage) to keep shipments in place to prevent cargo shifting.

Bls.

Abbreviation for "Bales."

Board

To gain access to a vessel.

Board Feet

The basic unit of measurement for lumber. One board foot is equal to a one-inch board, 12 inches wide and 1 foot long. Thus, a board 10 feet long, 12 inches wide, and 1 inch thick contains 10 board feet.

Bobtail

Movement of a tractor, without trailer, over the highway.

Bogie

A set of wheels built specifically as rear wheels under the container and vehicles wheels.

Bolster

A device fitted on a chassis or railcar to hold and secure the container.

Bond Port

Port of initial Customs entry of a vessel to any country. Also known as First Port of Call.

Bonded Freight

Freight moving under a bond to U.S. Customs or to the Internal Revenue Service, to be delivered only under stated conditions.

Bonded Warehouse

A warehouse authorized by Customs authorities for storage of goods on which payment of duties is deferred until the goods are removed.

Booking

Arrangements with a carrier for the acceptance and carriage of freight; i.e., a space reservation.

Booking Number

Reservation number used to secure equipment and act as a control number prior to completion of a B/L.

Bottom Side Rails

Structural members on the longitudinal sides of the base of the container.

Bottom-Air Delivery

A type of air circulation in a temperature control container. Air is pulled by a fan from the top of the container, passed through the evaporator coil for cooling, and then forced through the space under the load and up through the cargo. This type of airflow provides even temperatures.

Bow

The extreme front of a vessel. The most forward part of vessel.

Boxcar

A closed rail freight car.

Break Bulk

-Loose non-containerized mark and count cargo.

- To unload and distribute a portion or all of the contents of a rail car, container, trailer or ship.

Bridge Point

An inland location where cargo is received by the ocean carrier and then moved to a coastal port for loading.

Bridge Port

A port where cargo is received by the ocean carrier and stuffed into containers but then moved to another coastal port to be loaded on a vessel.

Broken Stowage

- The loss of space in a vessel caused by stowage of cargo, whether due to shape of cargo or of the vessel hull.

Broker

A person who arranges for transportation of loads for a percentage of the revenue from the load.

Brokerage

Freight forwarder/broker compensation as specified by ocean tariff or contract.

Bulk Cargo

Not in packages or containers; Homogeneous cargo shipped loose in the hold of a ship without mark and count. Grain, coal and sulfur are usually bulk freight.

Bulk-Freight Container

A container with a discharge hatch in the front wall; allows bulk commodities to be carried.

Bulkhead

A partition separating one part of a ship, freight car, aircraft or truck from another part.

Bull Rings

Cargo-securing devices mounted in the floor of containers; allow lashing and securing of cargo.

Bunker Charge

An extra charge (surcharge) sometimes added to steamship freight rates; justified by higher fuel costs. (Also known as Bunker Adjustment Factor or BAF.)

Bunkers

A maritime term referring to fuel used aboard the ship. Coal stowage areas aboard a vessel in the past were in bins or bunkers.

Bureau Veritas

A French classification society which certifies seagoing vessels for compliance to standardized rules regarding construction and maintenance.

C

C&F Terms of Sale (INCOTEMS)

Obsolete, although heavily used, term of sale meaning "cargo and freight" whereby Seller pays for cost of goods and freight charges up to destination port. In July, 1990 the International Chamber of Commerce replaced C&F with CFR.

Cabotage

Water transportation term applicable to shipments between ports of a nation; commonly refers to coastwise or intercoastal navigation or trade. Many nations, including the United States, have cabotage laws which require national flag vessels to provide domestic interport service.

CAF

Abbreviation for "Currency Adjustment Factor." A charge, expressed as a percentage of a base rate, that is applied to compensate ocean carriers of currency fluctuations.

Carnet

A Customs document permitting the holder to temporarily carry or send merchandise into certain foreign countries (for display, demonstration or similar purposes) without paying duties or posting bonds. Any of various Customs documents required for crossing some international borders.

Captain's Protest

A document prepared by the captain of a vessel on arriving at port; shows conditions encountered during voyage, generally for the purpose of relieving ship owner of any loss to cargo and shifting responsibility for reimbursement to the insurance company.

Carfloat

A barge equipped with tracks on which up to approximately 12 railroad cars are moved in harbors or inland waterways.

Car Pooling

Use of individual carrier/rail equipment through a central agency for the benefit of carriers and shippers.

Car Seal

Metal strip and lead fastener used for locking freight car or truck doors. Seals are numbered for record purposes.

Cargo

Freight loaded into a ship.

Cargo Manifest

A manifest that lists all cargo carried on a specific vessel voyage.

Cargo NOS

Cargo Not Otherwise Specified. Usually the rate entry in a tariff that can apply to commodities not covered under a specific item or sub- item in the applicable tariff.

Cargo Preference

Cargo reserved by a nation's laws for transport only on vessels registered in that nation. Typically the cargo is moving due to a direct or indirect support or activity of the Government.

Cargo Tonnage

Most ocean freight is billed on the basis of weight or measurement tons (W/M). Weight tons can be expressed in short tons of 2000 pounds, long tons of 2240 pounds or metric tons of 1000 kilos (2204.62 pounds). Measurement tons are usually expressed as cargo measurement of 40 cubic feet (1.12 meters) or cubic meters (35.3 cubic feet.)

Carload Rate

A rate applicable to a carload of goods.

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.

Carrier's Certificate

A certificate required by U.S. Customs to release cargo properly to the correct party.

Cartage

Usually refers to intra-city hauling on drays or trucks.

Cartment

Customs form permitting in-bond cargo to be moved from one location to another under Customs control, within the same Customs district. Usually in motor carrier's possession while draying cargo.

Cash Against Documents (CAD)

Method of payment for goods in which documents transferring title are given the buyer upon payment of cash to an intermediary acting for the seller, usually a commission house.

Cash in Advance (CIA)

A method of payment for goods in which the buyer pays the seller in advance of the shipment of goods. Usually employed when the goods, such as specialized machinery, are built to order.

Cash With Order (CWO)

A method of payment for goods in which cash is paid at the time of order and the transaction becomes binding on both buyer and seller.

CBM (CM)

Abbreviation for "Cubic Meter."

CE

Abbreviation for "Consumption Entry." The process of declaring the importation of foreign-made goods for use in the United States.

Cells

The construction system employed in container vessels; permits ship containers to be stowed in a vertical line with each container supporting the one above it.

Center of Gravity

The point of equilibrium of the total weight of a containership, truck, train or a piece of cargo.

Certificate of Inspection

- A document certifying that merchandise (such as perishable goods) was in good condition immediately prior to its shipment.
- The document issued by the U.S. Coast Guard certifying an American- flag vessel's compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Certificate of Origin

A certified document showing the origin of goods; used in international commerce.

CFS

Abbreviation for "Container Freight Station." A shipping dock where cargo is loaded ("stuffed") into or unloaded ("stripped") from containers. Generally, this involves less than

containerload shipments, although small shipments destined to same consignee are often consolidated. Container reloading from/to rail or motor carrier equipment is a typical activity.

Charter Party

A written contract between the owner of a vessel and the person desiring to employ the vessel (charterer); sets forth the terms of the arrangement, such as duration of agreement, freight rate and ports involved in the trip.

Chassis

A frame with wheels and container locking devices in order to secure the container for movement.

Chock

A piece of wood or other material placed at the side of cargo to prevent rolling or moving sideways.

CI

Abbreviation for "Cost and Insurance." A price that includes the cost of the goods, the marine insurance and all transportation charges except the ocean freight to the named point of destination.

CIF (Named Port)

Abbreviation for "Cost, Insurance, Freight." (Named Port) Same as C&F or CFR except seller also provides insurance to named destination.

CIF&C

Price includes commission as well as CIF.

CIF&E

Abbreviation for "Cost, Insurance, Freight and Exchange."

CIFCI

Abbreviation for "Cost, Insurance, Freight, Collection and Interest."

CIFI&E

Abbreviation for "Cost, Insurance, Freight, Interest and Exchange."

CKD

Abbreviation for "Completely Knocked Down." Parts and subassemblies being transported to an assembly plant.

CL

Abbreviation for "Carload" and "Containerload".

Claim

A demand made upon a carrier for payment on account of a loss sustained through its alleged negligence.

Classification

A publication, such as 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.

Classification Yard

A railroad yard with many tracks used for assembling freight trains.

Clayton Act

An anti-trust act of the U.S. Congress making price discrimination unlawful.

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. If no notation or exception is made, the B/L is assumed to be "clean."

Cleaning in Transit

The stopping of articles, such as peanuts, for cleaning at a point between the point of origin and destination.

Clearance Limits

The size beyond which cars or loads cannot use bridges, tunnels, etc.

Cleat

A strip of wood or metal used to afford additional strength, to prevent warping, or to which securing lines are attached.

Clip-On

Refrigeration equipment attachable to an insulated container that does not have its own refrigeration unit.

CM

Abbreviation for "Cubic Meter" (capital letters).

cm

Abbreviation for "centimeter."

Coastwise

Water transportation along the coast.

COD**Abbreviation for:**

- Collect (cash) on Delivery.
- Carried on Docket (pricing).

COFC

Abbreviation for the Railway Service "Container On Flat Car."

COGSA

Carriage of Goods by Sea Act. U.S. federal codification passed in 1936 which standardizes carrier's liability under carrier's bill of lading. U.S. enactment of The Hague Rules.

Collecting

A bank that acts as an agent to the seller's bank (the presenting bank). The collecting bank assumes no responsibility for either the documents or the merchandise.

Collection

A draft drawn on the buyer, usually accompanied by documents, with complete instructions concerning processing for payment or acceptance.

Combination Export Mgr.

A firm that acts as an export sales agent for more than one non-competing manufacturer.

Combination Rate

A rate made up of two or more factors, separately published.

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 relating to the shipment.

Commodity

Article shipped. For dangerous and hazardous cargo, the correct commodity identification is critical.

Commodity Rate

A rate published to apply to a specific article or articles.

Common Carrier

A transportation company which provides service to the general public at published rates.

Common Law

Law that derives its force and authority from precedent, custom and usage rather than from statutes, particularly with reference to the laws of England and the United States.

Concealed Damage

Damage that is not evident from viewing the unopened package.

Conference

An association of ship owners operating in the same trade route who operate under collective conditions and agree on tariff rates.

Confirmed Letter of Credit

A letter of credit, issued by a foreign bank, whose validity has been confirmed by a domestic bank. An exporter with a confirmed letter of credit is assured of payment even if the foreign buyer or the foreign bank defaults.

Confirming Bank

The bank that adds its confirmation to another bank's (the issuing bank's) letter of credit and promises to pay the beneficiary upon presentation of documents specified in the letter of credit.

Connecting Carrier

A carrier which has a direct connection with another carrier, under which freight is moved in joint-line service.

Connecting Carrier Agreement

A connecting carrier agreement is contract between originating carrier and second party, where second party agrees to carry goods to final destination on a through bill of lading.

Consignee

A person or company to whom commodities are shipped.

Consignee Mark

A symbol placed on packages for identification purposes; generally a triangle, square, circle, etc. with letters and/or numbers and port of discharge.

Consignment

- (1) A stock of merchandise advanced to a dealer and located at his place of business, but with title remaining in the source of supply.
- (2) A shipment of goods to a consignee.

Consignor

A person or company shown on the bill of lading as the shipper.

Consolidation

Cargo containing shipments of two or more shippers or suppliers. Containerload shipments may be consolidated for one or more consignees, often in containerload quantities.

Consolidator

A person or firm performing a consolidation service for others. The consolidator takes advantage of lower full carload (FCL) rates, and passes on the savings to shippers.

Construction Differential Subsidy

A program whereby the U.S. government attempted to offset the higher shipbuilding cost in the U.S. by paying up to 50% of the difference between cost of U.S. and non-U.S.

construction. The difference went to the U.S. shipyard. This program has not been funded since 1982.

Consul

A government official residing in a foreign country who represents the interests of her or his country and its nationals.

Consular Declaration

A formal statement describing goods to be shipped; filed with and approved by the consul of the country of destination prior to shipment.

Consular Invoice

A document, certified by a consular official, is required by some countries to describe a shipment. Used by Customs of the foreign country, to verify the value, quantity and nature of the cargo.

Consular Visa

An official signature or seal affixed to certain documents by the consul of the country of destination.

Consumption Entry (CE)

The process of declaring the importation of foreign-made goods into the United States for use in the United States.

Container

A box designed to be loaded or unloaded from a chassis or flat bed trailer for loading on to a vessel or rail car or hitched to a tractor (truck), and can be stacked at a container depot. Containers come in 53, 48, 45, 40 and 20 foot lengths, and are anywhere between 8, 8.5, 9, and 9.5 feet in height. Width is eight foot. Containers also come in different designs depending on the type of cargo they are intended to carry. Open tops, refrigerated, ventilated, insulated, and tank containers are all examples of different types of containers. Flat racks, platform, and vehicle racks while intermodal equipment, should not be mistaken as containers.

Container Booking

Arrangements with a steamship line to transport containerized cargo.

Container Freight Station

Facility that consolidates less than container load (LCL) shipments for shipment in containers. Also, breaks down LCL loads and makes them available to consignees. These facilities can be located in container yards, or off dock.

Container Manifest

Vessel sailing between two points must by law have a container manifest that shows various details about each container the ship is carrying. Information includes point of origin, point of destination, and a detailed summary of the total cargo in each container.

Container Pool

Stock of containers pooled by various container carriers and made available to local shippers. The purpose of the pool is to allow efficient use and supply of containers.

Container Terminal

An area designated for the stowage of cargoes in container; usually accessible by truck, railroad and marine transportation. Here containers are picked up, dropped off, maintained and housed. Usually where a vessel docks to load or discharge containers.

Container Yard (CY)

A materials-handling/storage facility used for storing full or empty containers unitized loads in containers. Commonly referred to as CY.

Containerizable Cargo

Cargo that will fit into a container and result in an economical shipment.

Containerization

Stowage of general or special cargoes in a container for transport in the various modes.

Container Load

A load sufficient in size to fill a container either by cubic measurement or by weight.

Contraband

Cargo that is prohibited.

Contract

A legally binding agreement between two or more persons/organizations to carry out reciprocal obligations or value.

Contract Carrier

Any person not a common carrier who, under special and individual contracts or agreements, transports passengers or property for compensation.

Controlled Atmosphere

Sophisticated, computer-controlled systems that manage the mixtures of gases within a container throughout an intermodal journey reducing decay.

Corner Posts

Vertical frame components fitted at the corners of the container, integral to the corner fittings and connecting the roof and floor structures. Containers are lifted and secured in a stack using the castings at the ends.

Correspondent Bank

A bank that, in its own country, handles the business of a foreign bank.

Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF)

Cost of goods, marine insurance and all transportation (freight) charges are paid to the foreign point of delivery by the seller.

Countervailing Duty

An additional duty imposed to offset export grants, bounties or subsidies paid to foreign suppliers in certain countries by the government of that country for the purpose of promoting export.

Cross Member

Transverse members fitted to the bottom side rails of a container, which support the floor.

C-TPAT – (Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism)

Part of security regime for cargo entering the United States. Importers who meet standards of supply chain security get faster.

Cu.

An abbreviation for "Cubic." A unit of volume measurement.

Cube Out

When a container or vessel has reached its volumetric capacity before its permitted weight limit.

Cubic Foot

1,728 cubic inches. A volume contained in a space measuring one foot high, one foot wide and one foot long.

Customhouse

A government office where duties are paid, import documents filed, etc., on foreign shipments.

Customhouse Broker

A person or firm, licensed by the treasury department of their country when required, engaged in entering and clearing goods through Customs for a client (importer).

Customs

Government agency charged with enforcing the rules passed to protect the country's import and export revenues.

Customs Bonded Warehouse

A warehouse authorized by Customs to receive duty-free merchandise.

Customs Entry

All countries require that the importer make a declaration on incoming foreign goods. The importer then normally pays a duty on the imported merchandise. The importer's statement is compared against the carrier's vessel manifest to ensure that all foreign goods are properly declared.

Customs Invoice

A form requiring all data in a commercial invoice along with a certificate of value and/or a certificate of origin. Required in a few countries (usually former British territories) and usually serves as a seller's commercial invoice.

Customs of the Port

A phrase often included in charter parties and freight contracts referring to local rules and practices which may impact upon the costs borne by the various parties.

Cut-Off Time

The latest time cargo may be delivered to a terminal for loading to a scheduled train or ship.

Cwt.

Hundred weight (United States, 100 pounds; U.K.,112)

CY Abbreviation for:

- Container Yard.
- The designation for full container receipt/delivery.

D

D&H

Abbreviation for "Dangerous and Hazardous" cargo.

D.B.A.

Abbreviation for "Doing Business As." A legal term for conducting business under a registered name.

DDC

Abbreviation for "Destination Delivery Charge." A charge, based on container size, that is applied in many tariffs to cargo. This charge is considered accessorial and is added to the base ocean freight. This charge covers crane lifts off the vessel, drayage of the container within the terminal and gate fees at the terminal operation.

Deadhead

One leg of a move without a paying cargo load. Usually refers to repositioning an empty piece of equipment.

Deadweight Cargo:

Also referred to as weight cargo. Cargo weighing one ton (1000 kilos/2240 lbs.), but measuring less than a measurement ton (35.314 cubic meters/or 40 cubic feet). Freight generally will move on weight.

Deadweight:

Difference between a ship's loaded and light displacement weight, consisting of the total weight of the vessels cargo, fuel, fresh water, stores and crew which a ship can carry when immersed in to a particular load line, normally her summer line.

Deconsolidation Point

Place where loose or other non-containerized cargo is ungrouped for delivery.

Deficit Weight

The weight by which a shipment is less than the minimum weight.

Delivery Instructions

Order to pick up goods at a named place and deliver them to a pier. Usually issued by exporter to trucker but may apply to a railroad, which completes delivery by land. Use is limited to a few major U.S. ports. Also known as shipping delivery order.

DEMDES

Demurrage/Despatch money. (Under vessel chartering terms, the amount to be paid if the ship is loading/discharging slower/faster than foreseen.)

Demurrage

A penalty charge against shippers or consignees for delaying the carrier's equipment beyond the allowed free time. The free time and demurrage charges are set forth in the charter party or freight tariff.

- See also Detention and Per Diem.

Density

The weight of cargo per cubic foot or other unit.

Depot, Container

Container freight station or a designated area where empty containers can be picked up or dropped off.

Despatch

An incentive payment paid to a carrier for loading and unloading the cargo faster than agreed. Usually negotiated only in charter parties.

Destination

- The place to which a shipment is consigned.
- The place where carrier actually turns over cargo to consignee or his agent.

Destination Control Statements

Various statements that the U.S. government requires to be displayed on export shipments. The statements specify the authorized destinations.

Detention

A penalty charge against shippers or consignees for delaying carrier's equipment beyond allowed time. Demurrage applies to cargo; detention applies to equipment. See Per Diem.

Devanning

The unloading of a container or cargo van.

DF Car

Damage-Free Car. Boxcars equipped with special bracing material.

Differential

An amount added or deducted from base rate to make a rate to or from some other point or via another route.

Discrepancy Letter of Credit

When documents presented do not conform to the requirements of the letter of credit (L/C), it is referred to as a "discrepancy." Banks will not process L/C's which have discrepancies. They will refer the situation back to the buyer and/or seller and await further instructions.

Displacement

The weight, in tons of 2,240 pounds, of the vessel and its contents. Calculated by dividing the volume of water displaced in cubic feet by 35, the average density of sea water.

Diversion

A change made either in the route of a shipment in transit (see Reconsignment) or of the entire ship.

Division

Carriers' practice of dividing revenue received from rates where joint hauls are involved. This is usually according to agreed formulae.

Dock

- For ships, a cargo handling area parallel to the shoreline where a vessel normally ties up.
- For land transport, a loading or unloading platform at an industrial location or carrier terminal.

Dockage

Refers to the charge assessed against the vessel for berthing at the facility or for mooring to a vessel so berthed.

Dock Receipt

A form used to acknowledge receipt of cargo and often serves as basis for preparation of the ocean bill of lading.

Docket

Present a rate proposal to a conference meeting for adoption as a conference group rate.

Documents Against Acceptance (D/A)

Instructions given by a shipper to a bank indicating that documents transferring title to goods should be delivered to the buyer only upon the buyer's acceptance of the attached draft.

Documents Against Payment (D/P)

An indication on a draft that the documents attached are to be released to the drawee only on payment.

Dolly

A set of wheels that support the front of a container; used when the automotive unit is disconnected.

Door-to-Door

Through transport of a container and its contents from consignor to consignee. Also known as House to House. Not necessarily a through rate.

D.O.T.

Department of Transportation

Draft

- The number of feet that the hull of a ship is beneath the surface of the water.
- An unconditional order in writing, addressed by one party (drawer) to another party (drawee), requiring the drawee to pay at a fixed or determinable future date a specified sum in lawful currency to the order of a specified person.

Draft, Bank

An order issued by a seller against a purchaser; directs payment, usually through an intermediary bank. Typical bank drafts are negotiable instruments and are similar in many ways to checks on checking accounts in a bank.

Draft, Clean

A draft to which no documents are attached.

Draft, Date

A draft that matures on a fixed date, regardless of the time of acceptance.

Draft, Discounted

A time draft under a letter of credit that has been accepted and purchased by a bank at a discount.

Draft, Sight

A draft payable on demand upon presentation.

Draft, Time

A draft that matures at a fixed or determinable time after presentation or acceptance.

Drawback

A partial refund of an import fee. Refund usually results because goods are re-exported from the country that collected the fee.

Drawee

The individual or firm that issues a draft and thus stands to receive payment.

Drayage

Charge made for local hauling by dray or truck. Same as Cartage.

DRFS

Abbreviation for "Destination Rail Freight Station." Same as CFS at destination, except a DRFS is operated by the rail carrier participating in the shipment.

DSU

Delay in Startup Insurance is a policy to protect the seller of a construction project from penalties if the project is not completed on time. See "Liquidated Damages."

Dry Cargo

Cargo that is not liquid and normally does not require temperature control.

Dry-Bulk Container

A container constructed to carry grain, powder and other free-flowing solids in bulk. Used in conjunction with a tilt chassis or platform.

Dumping

Attempting to import merchandise into a country at a price less than the fair market value, usually through subsidy by exporting country.

Dunnage

Loose wood or other material used in a vessel's hold or in a container to secure and support cargo during the voyage to prevent damage, movement or shifting of cargo.

E

E.C.M.C.A.

Eastern Central Motor Carriers Association.

Edge Protector

An angle piece fitted over the edge of boxes, crates, bundles and other packages to prevent the pressure from metal bands or other types from cutting into the package.

EDI

Abbreviation for "Electronic Data Interface." Generic term for transmission of transactional data between computer systems. EDI is typically via a batched transmission, usually conforming to consistent standards.

EDIFACT

International data interchange standards sponsored by the United Nations. See UN/EDIFACT.

Elevating

- A charge for services performed in connection with floating elevators.
- Charges assessed for the handling of grain through grain elevators.

Elkins Act

An act of Congress (1903) prohibiting rebates, concession, misbilling, etc. and providing specific penalties for such violations.

Embargo

Order to restrict the hauling of freight.

Eminent Domain

The sovereign power to take property for a necessary public use, with reasonable compensation.

Empty Repo

Contraction for Empty Repositioning. The movement of empty containers.

Endorsement

A legal signature usually placed on the reverse of a draft; signifies transfer of rights from the holder to another party.

Entry

Customs documents required to clear an import shipment for entry into the general commerce of a country.

Equalization

A monetary allowance to the customer for picking up or delivering at a point other than the destination shown on the bill of lading. This provision is covered by tariff publication.

Equipment Interchange Receipt (EIR)

A document transferring a container from one carrier to another, or to/from a terminal.

ETA

- Estimated time of arrival

- Estimated Time of Availability. That time when a tractor/partner carrier is available for dispatch.

Ethylene

A gas produced by many fruits and vegetables that accelerates the ripening and aging processes.

E.W.I.B.

Eastern Weighing and Inspection Bureau.

"Ex Dec"

Contraction for "Shipper's Export Declaration."

Ex - "From"

When used in pricing terms such as "Ex Factory" or "Ex Dock," it signifies that the price quoted applies only at the point of origin indicated.

Exception

Notations made when the cargo is received at the carrier's terminal or loaded aboard a vessel. They show any irregularities in packaging or actual or suspected damage to the cargo. Exceptions are then noted on the bill of lading.

EX-IM Bank

Abbreviation for Export-Import Bank of the United States. An independent U.S. Government Agency which facilitates exports of U.S. goods by providing loan guarantees and insurance for repayment of bank-provided export credit.

Expiry Date

Issued in connection with documents such as letters of credit, tariffs, etc. to advise that stated provisions will expire at a certain time.

Export

Shipment of goods to a foreign country.

Export Declaration

A government document declaring designated goods to be shipped out of the country. To be completed by the exporter and filed with the U.S. Government.

Export License

A government document which permits the "Licensee" to engage in the export of designated goods to certain destinations.

Export Rate

A rate published in a tariff for traffic moving from an interior point to a port for transshipment to a foreign country.

Ex-Works

An Incotem of sale meaning the seller deliverers to the buyer at seller's named premises.

F

Factor

A factor is an agent who will, at a discount (usually five to 8% of the gross), buy receivables.

FAK

Abbreviation for "Freight All Kinds." Usually refers to full container loads of mixed shipments.

False Billing

Misrepresenting freight or weight on shipping documents.

FAS

Abbreviation for "Free Alongside Ship."

FCL

Abbreviation for "Full Container Load."

FD

Abbreviation for "Free Discharge."

F.D.A.

Food and Drug Administration.

Feeder Service

Cargo to/from regional ports are transferred to/from a central hub port for a long-haul ocean voyage.

Feeder Vessel

A vessel which is part of a cargo network in which the larger, faster vessels only call at the major ports at both ends of the areas being covered, and the smaller ports are served by the smaller feeder vessels. These vessels then transfer the cargo to and from the major port terminals and thus keep the larger vessels filled closer to capacity and spare them the expense and loss of time in loading and unloading in the subsidiary ports.

FEU

Abbreviation for "Forty-Foot Equivalent Units." Refers to container size standard of 40 feet. Two 20-foot containers or TEU's equal one FEU.

Fifth Wheel

The semi-circular steel coupling device mounted on a tractor which engages and locks with a chassis semi-trailer.

FIO

See Free In and Out.

Firkin

A capacity measurement equal to one-fourth of a barrel.

Fixed Costs

Costs that do not vary with the level of activity. Some fixed costs continue even if no cargo is carried. Terminal leases, rent and property taxes are fixed costs.

Flat Car

A rail car without a roof and walls.

Flat Rack/Flat Bed Container

A container with no sides but with frame members at the front and rear. Container can be loaded from the sides and top.

FMC (F.M.C.)

Federal Maritime Commission. The U.S. Governmental regulatory body responsible for administering the tariff system, freight forwarder licensing, enforcing the conditions of the Shipping Act and approving conference or other carrier agreements.

FOB

See Free On Board. See also Terms of Sale, FOB.

FOR

Abbreviation for "Free on Rail."

Force Majeure

The title of a common clause in contracts, exempting the parties for non-fulfillment of their obligations as a result of conditions beyond their control, such as earthquakes, floods or war.

Fore and Aft

The direction on a vessel parallel to the center line.

Foreign Sales Corporation

Under U.S. tax law, a corporation created to obtain tax exemption on part of the earnings of U.S. products in foreign markets. Must be set-up as a foreign corporation with an office outside the USA.

Foreign Trade Zone

A free port in a country divorced from Customs authority but under government control. Merchandise, except that which is prohibited, may be stored in the zone without being subject to import duty regulations.

Fork Lift

A machine used to pick up and move goods loaded on pallets or skids.

Foul Bill of Lading

A receipt for goods issued by a carrier with an indication that the goods were damaged when received. Compare Clean Bill of Lading.

Four-Way Pallet

A pallet designed so that the forks of a fork lift truck can be inserted from all four sides. See Fork lift.

Forwarder Compensation

See Brokerage.

F.P.A.

See "Free of Particular Average."

Free Alongside (FAS)

The seller must deliver the goods to a pier and place them within reach of the ship's loading equipment. See Terms of Sale.

Free Astray

An astray shipment (a lost shipment that is found) sent to its proper destination without additional charge.

Free Carrier (FCA)-

An Incoterm of sale meaning the seller has delivered when the cargo is given to the carrier nominated by the buyer at the named place

Free In and Out (FIO)

Cost of loading and unloading a vessel is borne by the charterer/shipper.

Free of Particular Average (FPA)

A marine insurance term meaning that the assurer will not allow payment for partial loss or damage to cargo shipments except in certain circumstances, such as stranding, sinking, collision or fire.

Free on Board (FOB - U.S. Domestic Use)

Shipped under a rate that includes costs of delivery to and the loading onto a carrier at a specified point. Also an Incoterm of sale meaning title passes when the cargo passes over the ship's rail to be loaded.

- **FOB Freight Allowed:** The same as FOB named inland carrier, except the buyer pays the transportation charge and the seller reduces the invoice by a like amount.

- **FOB Freight Prepaid:** The same as FOB named inland carrier, except the seller pays the freight charges of the inland carrier.

- **FOB Named Point of Exportation:** Seller is responsible for the cost of placing the goods at a named point of exportation. Some European buyers use this form when they actually mean FOB vessel.

- **FOB Vessel:** Seller is responsible for goods and preparation of export documentation until actually placed aboard the vessel.

Free on Board (Int'l Use)

See Terms of Sale.

Free Out (FO)

Cost of unloading a vessel is borne by the charterer.

Free Port

A restricted area at a seaport for the handling of duty-exempted import goods. Also called a Foreign Trade Zone.

Free Sale Certificate

The U.S. government does not issue certificates of free sale. However, the Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, Maryland, will issue, upon request, a letter of comment to the U.S. manufacturers whose products are subject to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act or other acts administered by the agency. The letter can take the place of the certificate.

Free Time

That amount of time that a carrier's equipment may be used without incurring additional charges. (See Storage, Demurrage or Per Diem.)

Free Trade Zone

A port designated by the government of a country for duty-free entry of any non-prohibited goods. Merchandise may be stored, displayed, used for manufacturing, etc., within the zone and re-exported without duties.

Freight

Refers to either the cargo carried or the charges assessed for carriage of the cargo.

Freight Bill

A document issued by the carrier based on the bill of lading and other information; used to account for a shipment operationally, statistically, and financially. An Invoice.

Freight Forwarder

A person whose business is to act as an agent on behalf of the shipper. A freight forwarder frequently makes the booking reservation and prepares the documentation.

Freighters

See Ships.

G

Gateway

Industry-related: A point at which freight moving from one territory to another is interchanged between transportation lines.

GATT

Abbreviation for "General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade." A multilateral treaty to help reduce trade barriers between the signatory countries and to promote trade through tariff concessions. The World Trade Organization (WTO) superseded GATT in 1994.

GBL

Abbreviation for "Government Bill of Lading."

GDSM

Abbreviation for "General Department Store Merchandise." A classification of commodities that includes goods generally shipped by mass-merchandise companies. This commodity structure occurs only in service contracts.

General Order (G.O.)

When U.S. Customs orders shipments without entries to be kept in their custody in a bonded warehouse.

Generator Set (Gen Set)

A portable generator which can be attached to a refrigerated container to power the refrigeration unit during transit.

Go-Down

In the Far East, a warehouse where goods are stored and delivered.

Gooseneck

The front rails of the chassis that raise above the plane of the chassis and engage in the tunnel of a container leading to the connection to tractor.

GRI

Abbreviation for "General Rate Increase." Used to describe an across-the-board tariff rate increase implemented by conference members and applied to base rates.

Gross Tonnage (GT)

Applies to vessels, not to cargo, $(0.2+0.02 \log_{10}V)$ where V is the volume in cubic meters of all enclosed spaces on the vessel.

Gross Weight

Entire weight of goods, packaging and freight car or container, ready for shipment. Generally, 80,000 pounds maximum container, cargo and tractor for highway transport.

Groupage

A consolidation service, putting small shipments into containers for shipment.

GVW

Abbreviation for "Gross Vehicle Weight." The combined total weight of a vehicle and its container, inclusive of prime mover.

H

Hague Rules, The

A multilateral maritime treaty adopted in 1921 (at The Hague, Netherlands). Standardizes liability of an international carrier under the Ocean B/L. Establishes a legal "floor" for B/L. See COGSA

Harbor Master

An officer who attends to the berthing, etc., of ships in a harbor.

Harmonized System of Codes (HS)

An international goods classification system for describing cargo in international trade under a single commodity-coding scheme. Developed under the auspices of the Customs Cooperations Council (CCC), an international Customs organization in Brussels, this code is a hierarchically structured product nomenclature containing approximately 5,000 headings and subheadings.

It is organized into 99 chapters arranged in 22 sections. Sections encompass an industry (e.g., Section XI, Textiles and Textile Articles); chapters encompass the various materials and products of the industry (e.g., Chapter 50, Silk; Chapter 55, Manmade Staple Fibers; Chapter 57, Carpets).

The basic code contains four-digit headings and six-digit subheadings. Many countries add digits for Customs tariff and statistical purposes. In the United States, duty rates will be the eight-digit level; statistical suffixes will be at the ten-digit level. The Harmonized System (HS) is the current U.S. tariff schedule (TSUSA) for imports and is the basis for the ten-digit Schedule B export code.

Hatch

The opening in the deck of a vessel; gives access to the cargo hold.

HAZ MAT

An abbreviation for "Hazardous Material."

Heavy-Lift Charge

A charge made for lifting articles too heavy to be lifted by a ship's normal tackle.

High-Density Compression

Compression of a flat or standard bale of cotton to approximately 32 pounds per cubic foot. Usually applies to cotton exported or shipped coastwise.

Hitchment

The marrying of two or more portions of one shipment that originate at different locations, moving under one bill of lading, from one shipper to one consignee. Authority for this service must be granted by tariff publication. See Bill of Lading.

Hopper Barge

A barge which loads material dumped into it by a dredger and discharges the cargo through the bottom.

House-to-House

See Door-to-Door.

House-to-Pier

Cargo loaded into a container by the shipper under shipper's supervision. When the cargo is exported, it is unloaded at the foreign pier destination.

Humping

The process of connecting a moving rail car with a motionless rail car within a rail classification yard in order to make up a train. The cars move by gravity from an incline or "hump" onto the appropriate track.

I

I/A

Abbreviation for "Independent Action." The right of a conference member to publish a rate of tariff rule that departs from the Agreement's common rate or rule.

ICC

Abbreviation for (1) "Interstate Commerce Commission," (2) "International Chamber of Commerce."

IE

Stands for "Immediate Exit." In the U.S., Customs IE Form is used when goods are brought into the U.S. and are to be immediately re-exported without being transported within the U.S.

IICL –Institute of International Container Lessors

Group representing container leasing and chassis leasing companies

I.M.O.

International Maritime Organization. A forum in which most major maritime nations participate and through which recommendations for the carriage of dangerous goods, bulk commodities, and maritime regulations become internationally acceptable.

I.M.D.G. Code

International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code. The regulations published by the IMO for transporting hazardous materials internationally.

Immediate Exportation

An entry that allows foreign merchandise arriving at one port to be exported from the same port without the payment of duty.

In-Transit Entry (I.T.)

Allows foreign merchandise arriving at one port to be transported in bond to another port, where a superseding entry is filed.

Import

To receive goods from a foreign country.

Import License

A document required and issued by some national governments authorizing the importation of goods.

In Bond

Cargo moving under Customs control where duty has not yet been paid.

In Gate

The transaction or interchange that occurs at the time a container is received by a rail terminal or water port from another carrier.

In Transit

In transit, or in passage.

Incentive Rate

A lower-than-usual tariff rate assessed because a shipper offers a greater volume than specified in the tariff. The incentive rate is assessed for that portion exceeding the normal volume.

INCOTEMS

The recognized abbreviation for the International Chamber of Commerce Terms of Sale. These terms were last amended, effective January 1, 2000.

Indemnity Bond

An agreement to hold a carrier harmless with regard to a liability.

Independent Action

Setting rate within a conference tariff that is different from the rate(s) for the same items established by other conference members.

Independent Tariff

Any body of rate tariffs that are not part of an agreement or conference system.

Inducement

Placing a port on a vessel's itinerary because the volume of cargo offered at that port justifies the cost of routing the vessel.

Inherent Vice

An insurance term referring to any defect or other characteristic of a product that could result in damage to the product without external cause (for example, instability in a chemical that could cause it to explode spontaneously). Insurance policies may exclude inherent vice losses.

Inland Carrier

A transportation line that hauls export or import traffic between ports and inland points.

Inspection Certificate

A certificate issued by an independent agent or firm attesting to the quality and/or quantity of the merchandise being shipped. Such a certificate is usually required in a letter of credit for commodity shipments.

Installment Shipments

Successive shipments are permitted under letters of credit. Usually they must take place within a given period of time.

Insulated Container

A container insulated on the walls, roof, floor, and doors, to reduce the effect of external temperatures on the cargo.

Insulated Container Tank

The frame of a container constructed to hold one or more thermally insulated tanks for liquids.

Insurance with Average-clause

This type of clause covers merchandise if the damage amounts to three percent or more of the insured value of the package or cargo. If the vessel burns, sinks, or collides, all losses are fully covered. In marine insurance, the word average describes partial damage or partial loss.

Insurance, All-risk

This type of insurance offers the shipper the broadest coverage available, covering against all losses that may occur in transit.

Insurance, General-Average

In water transport, the deliberate sacrifice of cargo to make the vessel safe for the remaining cargo. Those sharing in the spared cargo proportionately cover the loss of the sacrificed cargo.

Insurance, Particular Average

A Marine insurance term which refers to partial loss on an individual shipment from one of the perils insured against, regardless of the balance of the cargo. Particular-average insurance can usually be obtained, but the loss must be in excess of a certain percentage of the insured value of the shipment, usually three to five percent, before a claim will be allowed by the company.

Interchange Point

A location where one carrier delivers freight to another carrier.

Intercoastal

Water service between two coasts; in the U.S., this usually refers to water service between the Atlantic and Pacific or Gulf Coasts.

Interline Freight

Freight moving from origin to destination over the Freight lines of two or more transportation carriers.

Intermediate Point

A point located en route between two other points.

Intermodal

Used to denote movements of cargo containers interchangeably between transport modes, i.e., motor, water, and air carriers, and where the equipment is compatible within the multiple systems.

Invoice

An itemized list of goods shipped to a buyer, stating quantities, prices, shipping charges, etc.

Inward Foreign Manifest (IFM)

A complete listing of all cargo entering the country of discharge. Required at all world ports and is the primary source of cargo control, against which duty is assessed by the receiving country.

IPI

Abbreviation for "Inland Point Intermodal." Refers to inland points (non-ports) that can be served by carriers on a through bill of lading.

Irrevocable Letter of Credit

Letter of credit in which the specified payment is guaranteed by the bank if all terms and conditions are met by the drawee and which cannot be revoked without joint agreement of both the buyer and the seller.

I.S.O. (International Organization for Standards)

ISO is a network of the national standards institutes of 148 countries. It deals in standards of all sorts, ranging from documentation to equipment packaging and labeling.

Issuing Bank

Bank that opens a straight or negotiable letter of credit and assumes the obligation to pay the bank or beneficiary if the documents presented are in accordance with the terms of the letter of credit.

Issuing Carrier

The carrier issuing transportation documents or publishing a tariff.

I.T.

Abbreviation for "Immediate Transport." The document (prepared by the carrier) allows shipment to proceed from the port of entry in the U.S. to Customs clearing at the destination. The shipment clears Customs at its final destination. Also called an "In-Transit" Entry.

J

Jacket

A wood or fiber cover placed around such containers as cans and bottles.

Jacob's Ladder

A rope ladder suspended from the side of a vessel and used for boarding.

Jettison

Act of throwing cargo or equipment (jetsam) overboard when a ship is in danger.

JIT

Abbreviation for "Just In Time." In this method of inventory control, warehousing is minimal or non-existent; the container is the movable warehouse and must arrive "just in time;" not too early nor too late.

Joint Rate

A rate applicable from a point on one transportation line to a point on another line, made by agreement and published in a single tariff by all transportation lines over which the rate applies.

K

KT

Kilo or metric ton. 1,000 Kilos or 2,204.6 pounds.

Kilogram

1,000 grams or 2.2046 pounds.

King Pin

A coupling pin centered on the front underside of a chassis; couples to the tractor.

Knocked Down (KD)

Articles which are taken apart to reduce the cubic footage displaced or to make a better shipping unit and are to be re-assembled.

Knot

One nautical mile (6,076 feet or 1852 meters) per hour. In the days of sail, speed was measured by tossing overboard a log which was secured by a line. Knots were tied into the line at intervals of approximately six feet. The number of knots measured was then compared against time required to travel the distance of 1000 knots in the line.

Known Loss

A loss discovered before or at the time of delivery of a shipment.

L

L/C

Abbreviation for "Letter of Credit."

Laden

Loaded aboard a vessel.

Lading

Refers to the freight shipped; the contents of a shipment.

Landbridge

Movement of cargo by water from one country through the port of another country, thence, using rail or truck, to an inland point in that country or to a third country. As example, a through movement of Asian cargo to Europe across North America.

Landed Cost

The total cost of a good to a buyer, including the cost of transportation.

Landing Certificate

Certificate issued by consular officials of some importing countries at the point or place of export when the subject goods are exported under bond.

Landing Gear

A support fixed on the front part of a chassis (which is retractable); used to support the front end of a chassis when the tractor has been removed.

Lash

To tie down cargo.

LASH

A maritime industry abbreviation for "Lighter Aboard Ship." A specially constructed vessel equipped with an overhead crane for lifting specially designed barges and stowing them into cellular slots in an athwartship position.

Lashing Gear

Chains and rods used to fasten containers on the deck of a vessel.

LAYCAN

Laydays/Cancelling (date): Range of dates within the hire contract must start.

LCL

Abbreviation for "Less than Container Load." The quantity of freight which is less than that required for the application of a container load rate. Loose Freight.

Less Than Truckload

Also known as LTL or LCL.

Letter of Credit (LC)

A document, issued by a bank per instructions by a buyer of goods, authorizing the seller to draw a specified sum of money under specified terms, usually the receipt by the bank of certain documents within a given time. Some of the specific descriptions are:

- **Back-to-Back:** A new letter of credit issued to another beneficiary on the strength of a primary credit. The second L/C uses the first L/C as collateral for the bank. Used in a three-party transaction.
- **Clean:** A letter of credit that requires the beneficiary to present only a draft or a receipt for specified funds before receiving payment.
- **Confirmed:** An L/C guaranteed by both the issuing and advising banks of payment so long as seller's documents are in order, and the L/C terms are met. Only applied to irrevocable L/C's. The confirming bank assumes the credit risk of the issuing bank.
- **Deferred Payment:** A letter of credit issued for the purchase and financing of merchandise, similar to acceptance-type letter of credit, except that it requires presentation of sight drafts payable on an installment basis.
- **Irrevocable:** An instrument that, once established, cannot be modified or cancelled without the agreement of all parties concerned.
- **Non cumulative:** A revolving letter of credit that prohibits the amount not used during the specific period from being available afterwards.
- **Restricted:** A condition within the letter of credit which restricts its negotiation to a named bank.
- **Revocable:** An instrument that can be modified or cancelled at any moment without notice to and agreement of the beneficiary, but customarily includes a clause in the credit to the effect that any draft negotiated by a bank prior to the receipt of a notice of revocation or amendment will be honored by the issuing bank. Rarely used since there is no protection for the seller.

- **Revolving:** An irrevocable letter issued for a specific amount; renews itself for the same amount over a given period.
- **Straight:** A letter of credit that contains a limited engagement clause which states that the issuing bank promises to pay the beneficiary upon presentation of the required documents at its counters or the counters of the named bank.
- **Transferable:** A letter of credit that allows the beneficiary to transfer in whole or in part to another beneficiary any amount which, in aggregate, of such transfers does not exceed the amount of the credit. Used by middlemen.
- **Unconfirmed:** A letter of credit forwarded to the beneficiary by the advising bank without engagement on the part of the advising bank.

Letter of Indemnity

In order to obtain the clean bill of lading, the shipper signs a letter of indemnity to the carrier on the basis of which may be obtained the clean bill of lading, although the dock or mate's receipt showed that the shipment was damaged or in bad condition.

Licenses

- Some governments require certain commodities to be licensed prior to exportation or importation. Clauses attesting to compliance are often required on the B/L.
- Various types issued for export (general, validated) and import as mandated by government(s).

Lien

A legal claim upon goods for the satisfaction of some debt or duty.

Lightening

A vessel discharges part of its cargo at anchor into a lighter to reduce the vessel's draft so it can then get alongside a pier.

Lighter

An open or covered barge towed by a tugboat and used mainly in harbors and inland waterways to carry cargo to/from alongside a vessel.

Lighterage

Refers to carriage of goods by lighter and the charge assessed therefrom.

Liner

A vessel sailing between specified ports on a regular basis.

Line-Haul

Transport from one city to another as differentiated from local switching service.

List

The amount in degrees that a vessel tilts from the vertical.

Liter

1.06 liquid U.S. quarts or 33.9 fluid ounces.

Liquidated Damages

The penalty a seller must pay if the construction project does not meet contractual standards or deadlines.

Lloyds' Registry

A British organization maintained for the surveying and classing of ships so that insurance underwriters and others may know the quality and condition of the vessels offered for insurance or employment.

LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas)

Primarily methane, the lightest hydrocarbon, LNG has a specific gravity of approximately 0.47, depending upon the percentage of methane and other light-end hydrocarbons. Natural gas will liquefy at a temperature of approximately -259°F or -160°C at atmospheric pressure. One cubic foot of liquefied gas will expand to approximately 600 cubic ft. of gas at atmospheric pressure.

LNGC (LNG Carrier)

An ocean-going ship specially constructed to carry LNG in tanks at -160°C. Current average carrying capacity of LNGCs of 125,000 cubic metres. However, many LNGCs presently under construction or on order are in the 210,000/215,000 cubic metre range.

LNG Liquefaction Facility

A processing plant that converts warm pressurized gas gathered from the gas field into LNG, generally at atmospheric pressure, for transporting as a liquid, most commonly on special purpose LNG ships. Liquefaction facilities are typically located near the gas fields and consist of one or more processing lines, referred to as "trains." LNG trains are each capable of producing 7 to 8 million tons of LNG/ year. A process of compressing, expanding and cooling using evaporation and other cold liquids is used to produce the end product. The facility will typically include substantial storage capacity for LNG and a loading station for transferring the LNG to receiving ships.

LNG Regasification/vaporization Facility

A facility designed to convert LNG back to gaseous form under pressure, for injection into a gas pipeline system. The facility typically uses heat derived from burning other fuel (or gas) to transform the LNG to gas which is then compressed to sufficiently high pressures to enable it to be injected into a gas distribution system. A typical facility also includes storage tanks and a piping transfer system to receive the LNG from LNGCs.

Load Ratio

The ratio of loaded miles to empty miles.

Local Cargo

Cargo delivered to/from the carrier where origin/destination of the cargo is in the local area.

Long Ton

2,240 pounds

Longshoreman

Individuals employed in a port to load and unload ships.

Loose

Without packing.

Low-Boy

A trailer or semi-trailer with no sides and with the floor of the unit close to the ground.

M

Malpractice

A carrier giving a customer illegal preference to attract cargo. This can take the form of a money refund (rebate); using lower figures than actual for the assessment of freight charges (undercubing); misdeclaration of the commodity shipped to allow the assessment of a lower tariff rate; waiving published tariff charges for demurrage, CFS handling or equalization; providing specialized equipment to a shipper to the detriment of other shippers, etc.

Mandamus

A writ issued by a court; requires that specific things be done.

Manifest

Document that lists in detail all the bills of lading issued by a carrier or its agent or master for a specific voyage. A detailed summary of the total cargo of a vessel. Used principally for Customs purposes.

Maritime Security Program (MSP)

U.S. Department of Transportation program supports national security strategic goal to assure an intermodal sealift capability to support vital national security interests and its performance goals to meet Department of Defense intermodal sealift requirements of approximately 165, 000 TEUs of capacity by assuring access to U.S.-flag shipping and other intermodal systems to deploy unilaterally if necessary during national emergencies; and to ensure that American mariners with appropriate skills are available to crew commercial and government owned cargo ships in times of national emergency by retaining the 2, 200 U.S. citizen mariners need to crew the MSP ships in the workforce and therefore available for a national security.

Marine Insurance

Insurance covering loss or damage of goods at sea. Marine insurance typically compensates the owner of merchandise for losses sustained from fire, shipwreck, etc., but excludes losses that can be recovered from the carrier.

Maritime

Business pertaining to commerce or navigation transacted upon the sea or in seaports in such matters as the court of admiralty has jurisdiction.

Marking

Letters, numbers, and other symbols placed on cargo packages to facilitate identification. Also known as marks.

Marlinespike

A pointed metal spike, used to separate strands of rope in splicing.

Master Inbond

U.S. Customs' automated program under AMS. It allows for electronic reporting of inbound (foreign) cargoes in the U.S.

Mate's Receipt

An archaic practice. An acknowledgement of cargo receipt signed by a mate of the vessel. The possessor of the mate's receipt is entitled to the bill of lading, in exchange for that receipt.

MBM

1,000 board feet. One MBM equals 2,265 C.M.

MCFS

Abbreviation for "Master Container Freight Station." See CFS.

Measurement Cargo

Freight on which transportation charges are calculated on the basis of volume measurement.

Measurement Ton

Bale cubic in units of 40 cubic feet to the ton. A capacity of 10,000 M/T is the same as 400,000 cubic feet .

Mechanically Ventilated Container

A container fitted with a means of forced air ventilation.

Memorandum Bill of Lading

An in-house bill of lading. A duplicate copy.

Memorandum Freight Bill

See Multiple Containerload Shipment.

Meter

39.37 inches (approximately).

Metric Ton

Equals about 2,204.62 pounds or 1,000 kilograms.

Microbridge

A cargo movement in which the water carrier provides a through service between an inland point and the port of load/discharge. The carrier is responsible for cargo and costs from origin on to destination. Also known as IPI or Through Service.

Mile

A unit equal to 5,280 feet on land. A nautical mile is 6076.115 ft.

Mini Landbridge

An intermodal system for transporting containers by ocean and then by rail or motor to a port previously served as an all-water move (e.g., Hong Kong to New York over Seattle).

Minimum Bill of Lading

A clause in a bill of lading which specifies the least charge that the carrier will make for issuing a lading. The charge may be a definite sum or the current charge per ton for any specified quantity.

Minimum Charge

The lowest charge that can be assessed to transport a shipment.

Mixed Container Load

A containerload of different articles in a single consignment.

MLB

Abbreviation for "Mini Landbridge."

M.M.F.B.

Middlewest Motor Freight Bureau.

Modified Atmosphere

A blend of gases tailored to replace the normal atmosphere within a container.

MSA

Maritime Security Act.

MSP

Maritime Security Program.

MT

Abbreviation for "Metric Ton."

Multimodal

Synonymous for all practical purposes with "Intermodal."

MultiTank Container

A container frame fitted to accommodate two or more separate tanks for liquids.

N

Nautical Mile

Distance of one minute of longitude at the equator, approximately 6,076.115 ft. The metric equivalent is 1852 meters.

N.C.I.T.D.

National Committee on International Trade Documentation.

NEC

Abbreviation for "Not Elsewhere Classified."

Negotiable Instruments

A document of title (such as a draft, promissory note, check, or bill of lading) transferable from one person to another in good faith for a consideration. Non-negotiable bills of lading are known as "straight consignment." Negotiable bills are known as "order b/l's."

NES

Abbreviation for "Not Elsewhere Specified."

Nested

Articles packed so that one rests partially or entirely within another, thereby reducing the cubic-foot displacement.

Net Tare Weight

The weight of an empty cargo-carrying piece of equipment plus any fixtures permanently attached.

Net Tonnage (NT)

The cargo carrying capacity of a vessel expressed in volume. i.e. gross tonnage of a vessel less spaces used for stores, fuel, passengers, crew, navigation and propulsion machinery. One net ton equals 100 cubic feet of cargo capacity.

Net Weight

Weight of the goods alone without any immediate wrappings, e.g., the weight of the contents of a tin can without the weight of the can.

Neutral Body

An organization established by the members of an ocean conference acts as a self-policing force with broad authority to investigate tariff violations, including authority to scrutinize all documents kept by the carriers and their personnel. Violations are reported to the membership and significant penalties are assessed.

Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (NK)

A Japanese classification society which certifies seagoing vessels for compliance to standardized rules regarding construction and maintenance.

N.M.F.C.

National Motor Freight Classification.

NOI

Abbreviation for "Not Otherwise Indexed."

NOIBN

Abbreviation for "Not Otherwise Indexed By Name."

Nomenclature of the Customs Cooperation Council

The Customs tariff used by most countries worldwide. It was formerly known as the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature and is the basis of the commodity coding system known as the Harmonized System.

Non-Dumping Certificate

Required by some countries for protection against the dumping of certain types of merchandise or products.

Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier (NVOCC)

A cargo consolidator in ocean trades who will buy space from a carrier and sub-sell it to smaller shippers. The NVOCC issues bills of lading, publishes tariffs and otherwise conducts itself as an ocean common carrier, except that it will not provide the actual ocean or intermodal service.

NOR

Notice of Readiness. (When the ship is ready to load.)

NOS

Abbreviation for "Not Otherwise Specified."

Nose

Front of a container or trailer - opposite the tail.

No-show

Cargo which has been booked but does not arrive in time to be loaded before the vessel sails. See also "Windy Booking."

N.P.C.F.B.

North Pacific Coast Freight Bureau.

Norske Veritas (NV)

A Norwegian classification society which certifies seagoing vessels for compliance to standardized rules regarding construction and maintenance.

O

Ocean Bill of Lading (Ocean B/L)

A contract for transportation between a shipper and a carrier. It also evidences receipt of the cargo by the carrier. A bill of lading shows ownership of the cargo and, if made negotiable, can be bought, sold or traded while the goods are in-transit.

OCP

See "Overland Common Points."

ODS

Abbreviation for "Operating Differential Subsidy." ODS seeks to equalize the disparity in operating costs between those of American ships and their foreign flag competitors with respect to wages, insurance, and maintenance not compensated by insurance. The Maritime Administration has discontinued this program. Final payments were concluded during FY 2003.

O.E.C.D.

Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, headquartered in Paris with membership consisting of the world's developed nations.

On Board

A notation on a bill of lading that cargo has been loaded on board a vessel. Used to satisfy the requirements of a letter of credit, in the absence of an express requirement to the contrary.

On Deck

A notation on a bill of lading that the cargo has been stowed on the open deck of the ship.

Open Account

A trade arrangement in which goods are shipped to a foreign buyer without guarantee of payment.

Open Insurance Policy

A marine insurance policy that applies to all shipments made by an exporter over a period of time rather than to one shipment only.

Open Top Container

A container fitted with a solid removable roof, or with a tarpaulin roof so the container can be loaded or unloaded from the top.

Operating Ratio

A comparison of a carrier's operating expense with its net sales. The most general measure of operating efficiency.

O.P.I.C.

Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Optimum Cube

The highest level of cube utilization that can be achieved when loading cargo into a container.

Order-Notify (O/N)

A bill of lading term to provide surrender of the original bill of lading before freight is released; usually associated with a shipment covered under a letter of credit.

ORFS

Abbreviation for "Origin Rail Freight Station." Same as CFS at origin except an ORFS is operated by the rail carrier participating in the shipment.

Origin

Location where shipment begins its movement.

Original Bill of Lading (OBL)

A document which requires proper signatures for consummating carriage of contract. Must be marked as "original" by the issuing carrier.

OS&D

Abbreviation for "Over, Short or Damaged" Usually discovered at cargo unloading.

Out Gate

Transaction or interchange that occurs at the time a container leaves a rail or water terminal.

Overcharge

To charge more than the proper amount according to the published rates.

Overheight Cargo

Cargo more than eight feet high which thus cannot fit into a standard container.

Overland Common Point (OCP)

A term stated on the bills of lading offering lower shipping rates to importers east of the Rockies, provided merchandise from the Far East comes in through the West Coast ports. OCP rates were established by U.S. West Coast steamship companies in conjunction with western railroads so that cargo originating or destined for the American Midwest and East would be competitive with all-water rates via the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf ports. Applies to eastern Canada.

Owner Code (SCAC)

Standard Carrier Abbreviation Code identifying an individual common carrier. A three letter carrier code followed by a suffix identifies the carrier's equipment. A suffix of "U" is a container and "C" is a chassis.

P

P&I

Abbreviation for "Protection and Indemnity," an insurance term.

Packing List

Itemized list of commodities with marks/numbers but no cost values indicated.

PADAG

Abbreviation for "Please Authorize Delivery Against Guarantee." A request from the consignee to the shipper to allow the carrier or agent to release cargo against a guarantee, either bank or personal. Made when the consignee is unable to produce original bills of lading.

Paired Ports

A U.S. Customs program wherein at least two designated Customs ports will enter cargo that arrives at either port without the necessity of an in-bound document.

Pallet

A platform with or without sides, on which a number of packages or pieces may be loaded to facilitate handling by a lift truck.

Paper Ramp

A technical rail ramp, used for equalization of points not actually served.

Paper Rate

A published rate that is never assessed because no freight moves under it.

Parcel Receipt

An arrangement whereby a steamship company, under rules and regulations established in the freight tariff of a given trade, accepts small packages at rates below the minimum bill of lading, and issues a parcel receipt instead of a bill of lading.

Partial Shipments

Under letters of credit, one or more shipments are allowed by the phrase "partial shipments permitted."

Particular Average

See Insurance, Particular Average.

Payee

A party named in an instrument as the beneficiary of the 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.

Per Diem

A charge, based on a fixed daily rate.

Perils of the Sea

Those causes of loss for which the carrier is not legally liable. The elemental risks of ocean transport.

Phytosanitary Inspection Certificate

A certificate issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to satisfy import regulations of foreign countries; indicates that a U.S. shipment has been inspected and found free from harmful pests and plant diseases.

Pickup

The act of calling for freight by truck at the consignor's shipping platform.

Pier

The structure perpendicular to the shoreline to which a vessel is secured for the purpose of loading and unloading cargo.

Pier-to-House

A shipment loaded into a container at the pier or terminal, thence to the consignee's facility.

Pier-to-Pier

Containers loaded at port of loading and discharged at port of destination.

Piggy Packer

A mobile container-handling crane used to load/unload containers to/from railcars.

Piggyback

A transportation arrangement in which truck trailers with their loads are moved by train to a destination. Also known as Rail Pigs.

Place of Delivery

Place where cargo leaves the care and custody of carrier.

Place of Receipt

Location where cargo enters the care and custody of carrier.

Plimsoll Mark/Plimsoll Lines

A series of horizontal lines, corresponding to the seasons of the year and fresh or saltwater, painted on the outside hull of a ship showing the maximum depth to which the ships hull may be immersed

POD

Abbreviation for:

- Port of Discharge.
- Port of Destination.
- Proof of Delivery. A document required from the carrier or driver for proper payment.

Point of Origin

The place at which a shipment is received by a carrier from the shipper.

POL

Abbreviation for:

- Port of Loading.
- Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants.

Pomerene Act, Also known as (U.S.) Federal Bill of Lading Act of 1916.

U.S. federal law enacting conditions by which a B/L may be issued. Penalties for issuing B/L's containing false data include monetary fines and/or imprisonment.

Port

- Harbor with piers or docks.
- Left side of a ship when facing forward.
- Opening in a ship's side for handling freight.

Port of Call

Port where a ship discharges or receives traffic.

Port of Entry

Port where cargo is unloaded and enters a country.

Port of Exit

Place where cargo is loaded and leaves a country.

PPI (Principal Party of Interest)

Term used by customers to designate the party responsible for the cargo and documentation, usually the beneficial owner of the cargo.

Pratique Certificate

Lifts temporary quarantine of a vessel; granted pratique by Health Officer.

Pre-cooling

A process employed in the shipment of citrus fruits and other perishable commodities. The fruit is packed and placed in a cold room from which the heat is gradually extracted. The boxes of fruit are packed in containers that have been thoroughly cooled and transported through to destination without opening the doors.

Prepaid (Ppd.)

Freight charges paid by the consignor (shipper) prior to the release of the bills of lading by the carrier.

Pro Forma

A Latin term meaning "For the sake of form."

Pro Forma Invoice

An invoice provided by a supplier prior to the shipment of merchandise, informing the buyer of the kinds and quantities of goods to be sent, their value, and specifications (weight, size, etc.).

Pro Rata

A Latin term meaning "In proportion."

Project Rate

Single tariff item, established to move multiple commodities needed for a specified project, usually construction.

Public Service Commission

A name usually given to a State body having control or regulation of public utilities.

Publishing Agent

Person authorized by transport lines to publish tariffs or rates, rules, and regulations for their account.

Pulp Temperature

Procedure where carrier tests the temperature of the internal flesh of refrigerated commodities to assure that the temperature at time of shipment conforms to prescribed temperature ranges.

Pup

A short semi-trailer used jointly with a dolly and another semi-trailer to create a twin trailer.



Q

Quarantine

A restraint placed on an operation to protect the public against a health hazard. A ship may be quarantined so that it cannot leave a protected point. During the quarantine period, the Q flag is hoisted.

Quoin

A wedge-shaped piece of timber used to secure barrels against movement.

Quota

The quantity of goods that may be imported without restriction during a set period of time.

Quotation

An offer to sell goods at a stated price and under stated terms.

Quay

A structure attached to land to which a vessel is moored. See also Pier and Dock.

R

Rag Top

A term used for an open-top trailer or container with a tarpaulin cover.

Rail Division

The amount of money an ocean carrier pays to the railroad for overland carriage.

Rail Grounding

The time that the container was discharged (grounded) from the train.

Ramp

Railroad terminal where containers are received or delivered and trains loaded or discharged. Originally, trailers moved onto the rearmost flatcar via a ramp and driven into position in a technique known as "circus loading." Most modern rail facilities use lifting equipment to position containers onto the flatcars.

Ramp-to-Door

A movement where the load initiates at an origin rail ramp and terminates at a consignee's door.

Ramp-to-Ramp

A movement of equipment from an origin rail ramp to a destination rail ramp only.

Rate Basis

A formula of the specific factors or elements that control the making of a rate. A rate can be based on any number of factors (i.e., weight, measure, equipment type, package, box, etc.).

Reasonableness

Under ICC and common law, the requirement that a rate not be higher than is necessary to reimburse the carrier for the actual cost of transporting the traffic and allow a fair profit.

Rebate

An illegal form of discounting or refunding that has the net effect of lowering the tariff price. See also Malpractice.

Reconsignment

Changing the consignee or destination on a bill of lading while shipment is still in transit. Diversion has substantially the same meaning.

Recourse

A right claim against the guarantors of a loan or draft or bill of exchange.

Red Label

A label required on shipments of flammable articles.

Reefer

Refrigerated container.

Related Points

A group of points to which rates are made the same as or in relation to rates to other points in group. Request for Price

RFP

Request for proposal

RFQ

Request for quotation.

Relay

To transfer containers from one ship to another when both vessels are controlled by the same network (carrier) manager.

Remittance

Funds sent by one person to another as payment.

Restricted Articles

Articles handled only under certain conditions.

Revenue Ton (RT)

A ton on which the shipment is freighted. If cargo is rated as weight or measure (W/M), whichever produces the highest revenue will be considered the revenue ton. Weights are based on metric tons and measures are based on cubic meters. RT=1 MT or 1 CBM.

Reverse IPI

An inland point provided by an all-water carrier's through bill of lading in the U.S. by first discharging the container in an East Coast port.

RO/RO

A shortening of the term, "Roll On/Roll Off." A method of ocean cargo service using a vessel with ramps which allows wheeled vehicles to be loaded and discharged without cranes.

Roll

To re-book cargo to a later vessel, usually because the original vessel's cargo was booked or over booked or cargo was inadvertently left behind.

Rolling

The side-to-side (athwartship) motion of a vessel.

Route

The manner in which a shipment moves; i.e., the carriers handling it and the points at which the carriers interchange.

Running Gear

Complementary equipment for terminal and over-the-road handling containers.

RVNX

Abbreviation for "Released Value Not Exceeding." Usually used to limit the value of goods transported. The limitation refers to carrier liability when paying a claim for lost or damaged goods.

S

Sanction

An embargo imposed by a Government against another country.

S/D

Abbreviation for:

- Sight draft.
- Sea damage.

SCAC Code

See Owner Code.

Schedule B

The Statistical Classification of Domestic and Foreign Commodities Exported from the United States.

Sea-Bee Vessels

Ocean vessels constructed with heavy-duty submersible hydraulic lift or elevator system at the stern of the vessel. The Sea-Bee system facilitates forward transfer and positioning of barges. Sea-Bee barges are larger than LASH barges. The Sea-Bee system is no longer used.

Sea Waybill

Document indicating the goods were loaded onboard when a document of title (b/L) is not needed. Typically used when a company is shipping goods to itself.

Seaworthiness

The fitness of a vessel for its intended use.

SED

U.S. Commerce Department document, "Shipper's Export Declaration."

Service

A number of vessels dedicated to serving a particular market.

Service Contract

As provided in the Shipping Act of 1984, a contract between a shipper (or a shippers association) and an ocean common carrier (or conference) in which the shipper makes a

commitment to provide a certain minimum quantity of cargo or freight revenue over a fixed time period, and the ocean common carrier or conference commits to a certain rate or rate schedule as well as a defined service level (such as assured space, transit time, port rotation or similar service features). The contract may also specify provisions in the event of nonperformance on the part of either party.

SHEX

Saturday and Holidays Excluded.

SHINC

Saturday and Holidays Included.

Ship Chandler

An individual or company selling equipment and supplies for ships.

Ship Demurrage

A charge for delaying a steamer beyond a stipulated period.

Ship's Bells

Measure time onboard ship. One bell sounds for each half hour. One bell means 12:30, two bells mean 1:00, three bells mean 1:30, and so on until 4:00 (eight bells). At 4:30 the cycle begins again with one bell.

Ship's Manifest

A statement listing the particulars of all shipments loaded for a specified voyage.

Ship's Tackle

All rigging, cranes, etc., utilized on a ship to load or unload cargo.

Shipment

The tender of one lot of cargo at one time from one shipper to one consignee on one bill of lading.

Shipper

The person or company who is usually the supplier or owner of commodities shipped. Also called Consignor.

Shippers Association

A non-profit entity that represents the interests of a number of shippers. The main focus of shippers associations is to pool the cargo volumes of members to leverage the most favorable service contract rate levels.

Shipper's Export Declaration (SED, "Ex Dec")

A joint Bureau of the Census' International Trade Administration form used for compiling U.S. exports. It is completed by a shipper and shows the value, weight, destination, etc., of export shipments as well as Schedule B commodity code.

Shipper's Instructions

Shipper's communication(s) to its agent and/or directly to the international water-carrier. Instructions may be varied, e.g., specific details/clauses to be printed on the B/L, directions for cargo pickup and delivery.

Shipper's Letter of Instructions for issuing an Air Waybill

The document required by the carrier or freight forwarders to obtain (besides the data needed) authorization to issue and sign the air waybill in the name of the shipper.

Shipper's Load & Count (SL&C)

Shipments loaded and sealed by shippers and not checked or verified by the carriers.

Shipping Act of 1916

The act of the U.S. Congress (1916) that created the U.S. Shipping Board to develop water transportation, operate the merchant ships owned by the government, and regulate the water carriers engaged in commerce under the flag of the United States. As of June 18, 1984, applies only to domestic offshore ocean transport.

Shipping Act of 1984

Effective June 18, 1984, describes the law covering ocean transportation in the U.S. foreign trade.

Shipping Act of 1998

Amends the Act of 1984 to provide for confidential service contracts and other items.

Shipping Order

Shipper's instructions to carrier for forwarding goods; usually the triplicate copy of the bill of lading.

Ships

- **Bulk Carriers:** All vessels designed to carry bulk cargo such as grain, fertilizers, ore, and oil.
- **Combination Passenger and Cargo Ships:** Cargo ships with a capacity for 13 or more passengers.
- **Freighters:** Breakbulk vessels both refrigerated and unrefrigerated, containerships, partial containerships, roll-on/roll-off vessels, heavylift and barge carriers.
- **Barge Carriers:** Ships designed to carry barges; some are fitted to act as full containerships and can carry a varying number of barges and containers at the same time. At present this class includes two types of vessels LASH and Sea-Bee.
- **General Cargo Carriers:** A vessel designed to carry heterogeneous mark and count cargo
- **Full Containerships:** Ships equipped with permanent container cells, with little or no space for other types of cargo.
- **Partial Containerships:** Multipurpose containerships where one or more but not all compartments are fitted with permanent container cells. Remaining compartments are used for other types of cargo.
- **Roll-on/Roll-off vessels:** Ships specially designed to carry wheeled containers or trailers using interior ramps.
- **Tankers:** Ships fitted with tanks to carry liquid cargo such as: crude petroleum and petroleum products; chemicals, orange juice, liquefied gases (LNG and LPG), wine, molasses, and similar product tankers.

Shore

A prop or support placed against or beneath anything to prevent sinking or sagging.

Short Sea Shipping -SSS (European-EU)

Short Sea Shipping means the movement of cargo by sea between ports situated in geographical Europe or between those ports situated in non-European countries having a coastline on the enclosed seas bordering Europe (Baltic, Mediterranean and Black). It is a successful mode of transport in Europe.

Short Sea Shipping-SSS (North American)

Short Sea Shipping is defined as commercial waterborne transport that does not transit an ocean. It is an alternative form of commercial transport that utilizes inland and coastal waterways to move commercial freight from major domestic ports to its destination. Wherever applicable on these same routes, SSS also applies to passenger carriage.

Short Ton (ST)

2,000 pounds.

Shrink Wrap

Polyethylene or similar substance heat-treated and shrunk into an envelope around several units, thereby securing them as a single pack for presentation or to secure units on a pallet.

Side Loader

A lift truck fitted with lifting attachments operating to one side for handling containers.

Side-Door Container

A container fitted with a rear door and a minimum of one side door.

Sight Draft

A draft payable upon presentation to the drawee.

SIGTTO (Society of International Gas Transport and Terminal Operators)-

Based in London, an industry organization formed in 1979 to promote the exchange of safety information concerning the processing, transporting and handling of liquefied gases such as LNG and LPG (liquefied petroleum gas- typically propane). The organization also develops informational guidelines and bulletins concerning crew training materials and other matters designed to enhance the safe handling and transport of liquefied gases.

Skids

Battens, or a series of parallel runners, fitted beneath boxes or packages to raise them clear of the floor to permit easy access of forklift blades or other handling equipment.

SL/W

Shippers load and count. All three clauses are used as needed on the bill of lading to exclude the carrier from liability when the cargo is loaded by the shipper.

Sleepers

Loaded containers moving within the railroad system that are not clearly identified on any internally generated reports.

Sling

A wire or rope contrivance placed around cargo and used to load or discharge it to/from a vessel.

Slip

A vessel's berth between two piers.

SPA

Abbreviation for "Subject to Particular Average." See also Particular Average.

Spine Car

An articulated five-platform railcar. Used where height and weight restrictions limit the use of stack cars. It holds five 40-foot containers or combinations of 40- and 20-foot containers.

Spotting

Placing a container where required to be loaded or unloaded.

Spreader

A piece of equipment designed to lift containers by their corner castings.

SSHEX

Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays Excepted – Refers to loading and discharging of cargo as agreed to in the charter party. This indicates when time does not count in the calculation of demurrage and despatch.

Stability

The force that holds a vessel upright or returns it to upright position if keeled over. Weight in the lower hold increases stability. A vessel is stiff if it has high stability, tender if it has low stability.

Stack Car

An articulated five-platform rail car that allows containers to be double stacked. A typical stack car holds ten 40-foot equivalent units (FEU's).

Stacktrain

A rail service whereby rail cars carry containers stacked two high on specially operated unit trains. Each train includes up to 35 articulated multi-platform cars. Each car is comprised of 5 well-type platforms upon which containers can be stacked. No chassis accompany containers.

Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)

A standard numerical code used by the U.S. Government to classify products and services.

Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

A standard numeric code developed by the United Nations to classify commodities used in international trade, based on a hierarchy.

Starboard

The right side of a ship or boat when facing the bow.

Statute Of Limitation

A law limiting the time in which claims or suits may be instituted.

STCC

Abbreviation for "Standard Transportation Commodity Code."

Steamship Conference

A group of vessel operators joined together for the purpose of establishing freight rates.

Steamship Guarantee

An indemnity issued to the carrier by a bank; protects the carrier against any possible losses or damages arising from release of the merchandise to the receiving party. This instrument is usually issued when the bill of lading is lost or is not available.

Stern

The back end of a vessel. Opposite of bow.

Stevedore

Individual or firm that employs longshoremen and who contracts to load or unload the ship.

Store-Door Pick-up Delivery

A complete package of pick up or delivery services performed by a carrier from origin to final consumption point.

Stowage

A marine term referring to loading freight into ships' holds.

STC

Said to contain.

Straddle Carrier

Mobile truck equipment with the capacity for lifting a container within its own framework.

Straight Bill of Lading

A non-negotiable bill of lading which states a specific identity to whom the goods should be delivered. See Bill of Lading.

Stripping

Removing cargo from a container (devanning).

Stuffing

Putting cargo into a container.

STW

Said to weigh.

Subrogate

To put in place of another; i.e., when an insurance company pays a claim it is placed in the same position as the payee with regard to any rights against others.

Surface Transportation Board (STB)

The U.S. federal body charged with enforcing acts of the U.S. Congress that affect common carriers in interstate commerce. STB replaced the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) in 1997.

Sufferance Wharf

A wharf licensed and attended by Customs authorities.

Supply Chain

A logistical management system which integrates the sequence of activities from delivery of raw materials to the manufacturer through to delivery of the finished product to the customer into measurable components. "Just in Time" is a typical value-added example of supply chain management.

Surcharge

An extra or additional charge.

Surtax - An additional extra tax.

T

T.&E.

Abbreviation for "Transportation and Exportation." Customs form used to control cargo movement from port of entry to port of exit, meaning that the cargo is moving from one country, through the United States, to another country.

Tail

Rear of a container or trailer-opposite the front or nose.

Tare Weight

In railcar or container shipments, the weight of the empty railcar or empty container.

Tariff (Trf.)

A publication setting forth the charges, rates and rules of transportation companies.

Telex

Used for sending messages to outside companies. Messages are transmitted via Western Union, ITT and RCA. Being replaced by fax and internet.

Temperature Recorder

A device to record temperature in a container while cargo is en route.

Tender

The offer of goods for transportation or the offer to place cars or containers for loading or unloading.

Tenor

Time and date for payment of a draft.

Terminal

An assigned area in which grain, ore and coal cargoes, among other bulk cargoes, is prepared for loading into a vessel, train, truck or aircraft and placed in the terminal immediately after discharge from the vessel, train, truck, or aircraft.

Terminal Charge

A charge made for a service performed in a carrier's terminal area.

Terms of Sale

The point at which sellers have fulfilled their obligations so the goods in a legal sense could be said to have been delivered to the buyer. They are shorthand expressions that set out the rights and obligations of each party when it comes to transporting the goods. Following, are the thirteen terms of sale in international trade as Terms of Sale reflected in the recent amendment to the International chamber of Commerce Terms of Trade (INCOTERMS), effective January 1, 2000: exw, fca, fas, fob, cfr, cif, cpt, cip, daf, des, deq, ddu and ddp.

- EXW (Ex Works) (...Named Place): A Term of Sale which means that the seller fulfills the obligation to deliver when he or she has made the goods available at his/her premises (i.e., works, factory, warehouse, etc.) to the buyer. In particular, the seller is not responsible for loading the goods in the vehicle provided by the buyer or for clearing the goods for export, unless otherwise agreed. The buyer bears all costs and risks involved in taking the goods from the seller's premises to the desired destination. This term thus represents the minimum obligation for the seller.

- FCA (Free Carrier) (... Named Place): A Term of Sale which means the seller fulfills their obligation when he or she has handed over the goods, cleared for export, into the charge of the carrier named by the buyer at the named place or point. If no precise point is indicated by the buyer, the seller may choose, within the place or range stipulated, where the carrier should take the goods into their charge.

- FAS (Free Alongside Ship) (...Named Port of Shipment): A Term of Sale which means the seller fulfills his obligation to deliver when the goods have been placed alongside the vessel on the quay or in lighters at the named port of shipment. This means that the buyer has to bear all costs and risks of loss of or damage to the goods from that moment.

- FOB (Free On Board) (...Named Port of Shipment): An International Term of Sale that means the seller fulfills his or her obligation to deliver when the goods have passed over the ship's rail at the named port of shipment. This means that the buyer has to bear all costs and risks to loss of or damage to the goods from that point. The FOB term requires the seller to clear the goods for export.

- CFR (Cost and Freight) (...Named Port of Destination): A Term of Sale where the seller pays the costs and freight necessary to bring the goods to the named port of destination, Terms of Sale but the risk of loss of or damage to the goods, as (continued) well as any additional costs due to events occurring after the time the goods have been delivered on board the vessel, is transferred from the seller to the buyer when the goods pass the ship's rail in the port of shipment. The CFR term requires the seller to clear the goods for export.

- CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) (...Named Place of Destination): A Term of Sale where the seller has the same obligations as under the CFR but also has to procure marine insurance against the buyer's risk of loss or damage to the goods during the carriage. The seller contracts for insurance and pays the insurance premium. The CIF term requires the seller to clear the goods for export.

- CPT (Carriage Paid To) (...Named Place of Destination): A Term of Sale which means the seller pays the freight for the carriage of the goods to the named destination. The risk of

loss of or damage to the goods, as well as any additional costs due to events occurring after the time the goods have been delivered to the carrier, is transferred from the seller to the buyer when the goods have been delivered into the custody of the carrier. If subsequent carriers are used for the carriage to the agreed upon destination, the risk passes when the goods have been delivered to the first carrier. The CPT term requires the seller to clear the goods for export.

- CIP (Carriage and Insurance Paid To) (...Named Place of Destination): A Term of Sale which means the seller has the same obligations as under CPT, but with the addition that the seller has to procure cargo insurance against the buyer's risk of loss of or damage to the goods during the carriage. The seller contracts for insurance and pays the insurance premium. The buyer should note that under the CIP term the seller is required to obtain insurance only on minimum coverage. The CIP term requires the seller to clear the goods for export.

- DAF (Delivered At Frontier) (...Named Place): A Term of Sale which means the sellers fulfill their obligation to deliver when the goods have been made available, cleared for export, at the named point and placed at the frontier, but before the customs Terms of Sale border of the adjoining country.

- DDU (Delivered Duty Unpaid) (...Named Port of Destination): A Term of Sale where the seller fulfills his obligation to deliver when the goods have been made available at the named place in the country of importation. The seller has to bear the costs and risks involved in bringing the goods thereto (excluding duties, taxes and other official charges payable upon importation) as well as the costs and risks of carrying out customs formalities. The buyer has to pay any additional costs and to bear any risks caused by failure to clear the goods for in time.

- DDP (Delivered Duty paid) (...Named Port of Destination): "Delivered Duty Paid" means that the seller fulfills his obligation to deliver when the goods have been made available at the named place in the country of importation. The seller has to bear the risks and costs, including duties, taxes and other charges of delivering the goods thereto, clear for importation. While the EXW term represents the minimum obligation for the seller, DDP represents the maximum.

- DES (Delivered Ex Ship) (...Named Port of Destination): A Term of Sale where the seller fulfills his/her obligation to deliver when the goods have been made available to the buyer on board the ship, uncleared for import at the named port of destination. The seller has to bear all the costs and risks involved in bringing the goods to the named port destination.

- DEQ (Delivered Ex Quay, [Duty Paid]) (...Named Port of Destination): A Term of Sale which means the DDU term has been fulfilled when the goods have been available to the buyer on the quay (wharf) at the named port of destination, cleared for importation. The seller has to bear all risks and costs including duties, taxes and other charges of delivering the goods thereto.

TBN

To Be Nominated (When the name of a ship is still unknown).

TEU (Twenty foot Equivalent Unit)

Used when referring to length of cargo containers

Through Rate

The total rate from the point of origin to final destination.

Throughput Charge

The charge for moving a container through a container yard off or onto a ship.

Time Charter

A charter party is a contract which specifies under what terms and conditions a vessel is hired. Vessels are hired for a specified period of time or a particular voyage in which the ship owner provides the vessel and crew, while the person or persons chartering the ship solicits the cargo.

Time Draft

A draft that matures either a certain number of days after acceptance or a certain number of days after the date of the draft.

TIR

- "Transport International par la Route." Road transport operating agreement among European governments and the United States for the international movement of cargo by road. Display of the TIR carnet allows sealed containerloads to cross national frontiers without inspection.

TL

Abbreviation for "Trailer Load."

TOFC ("Trailer on Flat Car")

Carriage of highway trailers on specially equipped railway wagons. Also known as piggyback.

Ton-Mile

- A unit used in comparing freight earnings or expenses. The amount earned from the cost of hauling a ton of freight one mile.
- The movement of a ton of freight one mile.

Tonnage

Generally refers to freight handled.

Top-Air Delivery

A type of air circulation in a container. In top air units, air is drawn from the bottom of the container, filtered through the evaporator for cooling and then forced through the ducted passages along the top of the container. This type of airflow requires a special loading pattern.

Towage

The charge made for towing a vessel.

Tractor

Unit of highway motive power used to pull one or more trailers/containers.

Trade Acceptance

A time or a date draft that has been accepted by the buyer (the drawee) for payment at maturity.

Traffic

Persons and property carried by transport lines.

Trailer

The truck unit into which freight is loaded as in tractor trailer combination. See Container.

Tramp Line

An ocean carrier company operating vessels not on regular runs or schedules. They call at any port where cargo may be available.

Transport

To move cargo from one place to another.

Transportation & Exit (T&E)

Allows foreign merchandise arriving at one port to be transported in bond through the U.S. to be exported from another port, without paying duty.

Transship

To transfer goods from one transportation line to another, or from one ship to another.

Transshipment Port

Place where cargo is transferred to another carrier.

Trust Receipt

Release of merchandise by a bank to a buyer while the bank retains title to the merchandise. The goods are usually obtained for manufacturing or sales purposes. The buyer is obligated to maintain the goods (or the proceeds from their sales) distinct from the remainder of the assets and to hold them ready for repossession by the bank.

Turnaround

In water transport, the time it takes between the arrival of a vessel and its departure.

Twist Locks

A set of four twistable bayonet type shear keys used as part of a spreader to pick up a container or as part of a chassis to secure the containers.

Two-Way Pallet

A pallet so designed that the forks of a fork lift truck can be inserted from two sides only.

U

UCP

Abbreviation for the "Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits," published by the International Chamber of Commerce. This is the most frequently used standard for making payments in international trade; e.g., paying on a Letter of Credit. It is most frequently referred to by its shorthand title: UCP No. 500. This revised publication reflects recent changes in the transportation and banking industries, such as electronic transfer of funds.

UFC

Abbreviation for "Uniform Freight Classification."

Ullage

The space not filled with liquid in a drum or tank.

UN/EDIFACT

United Nations EDI for Administration, Commerce and Transport. EDI Standards are developed and supported by the UN for electronic message (data) interchange on an international level.

Unclaimed Freight

Freight that has not been called for or picked up by the consignee or owner.

Undercharge

To charge less than the proper amount.

Uniform Customs and Practices for Documentary Credits (UCP)

Rules for letters of credit drawn up by the Commission on Banking Technique and Practices of the International Chamber of Commerce in consultation with the banking associations of many countries. See Terms of Payment.

Unit Load

Packages loaded on a pallet, in a crate or any other way that enables them to be handled at one time as a unit.

Unit Train

A train of a specified number of railcars, perhaps 100, which remain as a unit for a designated destination or until a change in routing is made.

Unitization

- The consolidation of a quantity of individual items into one large shipping unit for easier handling.
- Loading one or more large items of cargo onto a single piece of equipment, such as a pallet.

Unloading

Removal of a shipment from a vessel.

U.S. Consular Invoice

A document required on merchandise imported into the United States.

V

Validated Export License

A document issued by the U.S. government; authorizes the export of commodities for which written authorization is required by law.

Validation

Authentication of B/L and when B/L becomes effective.

Vanning

A term for stowing cargo in a container.

Variable Cost

Costs that vary directly with the level of activity within a short time. Examples include costs of moving cargo inland on trains or trucks, stevedoring in some ports, and short-term equipment leases. For business analysis, all costs are either defined as variable or fixed. For a business to break even, all fixed costs must be covered. To make a profit, all variable and fixed costs must be recovered plus some extra amount.

Ventilated Container

A container designed with openings in the side and/or end walls to permit the ingress of outside air when the doors are closed.

Vessel Supplies for Immediate Exportation (VSIE)

Allows equipment and supplies arriving at one port to be loaded on a vessel, aircraft, etc., for its exclusive use and to be exported from the same port.

Vessel Manifest

The international carrier is obligated to make declarations of the ship's crew and contents at both the port of departure and arrival. The vessel manifest lists various details about each shipment by B/L number. Obviously, the B/L serves as the core source from which the manifest is created.

VISA -Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement

Provides the U.S. defense community with "assured access" to commercial intermodal capacity to move sustainment cargo during time of war or national emergency.

Viz.

Namely. Used in tariffs to specify commodities.

VLFO - Vessel Load Free Out

The loading and discharge terms for the cargo to be shipped, as agreed to in the charter party. The vessel (carrier) pays for the loading of the cargo on board the ship and the receiver pays for the discharge of the cargo from the ship to the pier.



W

War Risk

Insurance coverage given for loss of goods resulting from any act of war.

Warehouse

A place for the reception, delivery, consolidation, distribution, and storage of goods/cargo.

Warehouse Entry

Document that identifies goods imported when placed in a bonded warehouse. The duty is not imposed on the products while in the warehouse, but will be collected when they are withdrawn for delivery or consumption.

Warehouse Withdrawal for Transportation Immediate Exportation (WDEX)

Allows merchandise that has been withdrawn from a bonded warehouse at one U.S. port to be exported from the same port exported without paying duty.

Warehouse Withdrawal for Transportation (WDT)

Allows merchandise that has been withdrawn from a bonded warehouse at one port to be transported in bond to another port, where a superseding entry will be filed.

Warehouse Withdrawal for Transportation Immediate Exportation (WDEX)

Allows merchandise that has been withdrawn from a bonded warehouse at one U.S. port to be exported from the same port exported without paying duty.

Warehousing

The storing of goods/cargo.

Waybill (WB)

A document prepared by a transportation line at the point of a shipment; shows the point of the origin, destination, route, consignor, consignee, description of shipment and amount charged for the transportation service. It is forwarded with the shipment or sent by mail to the agent at the transfer point or waybill destination. Abbreviation is WB. Unlike a bill of lading, a waybill is NOT a document of title.

Weight Cargo

A cargo on which the transportation charge is assessed on the basis of weight.

Weights and Measures/Measurement ton:

- 35.314 cubic ft or one cubic meter

- Net ton/short ton - 2,000 lbs
- Gross ton/long ton - 2,240 lbs
- Metric ton/kilo ton - 2,204.6 lbs
- Cubic meter - 35.314 cubic ft

Well Car

Also known as stack car. A drop-frame rail flat car.

Wharfage (Whfge.)

Charge assessed by a pier or dock owner against freight handled over the pier or dock or against a steamship company using the pier or dock.

WIBON

Whether In Berth or Not.

Windy Booking

A freight booking made by a skipper or freight forwarder to serve space but not actually having a specific cargo at the time the booking is made. Carriers often overbook a vessel by 10 to 20 percent in recognition that "windy booking" cargo will not actually ship.

Without Recourse

A phrase preceding the signature of a drawer or endorser of a negotiable instrument; signifies that the instrument is passed onto subsequent holders without any liability to the endorser in the event of nonpayment or nondelivery.

W.M. (W/M)

Abbreviation for "Weight or Measurement;" the basis for assessing freight charges. Also known as "worm." The rate charged under W/M will be whichever produces the highest revenue between the weight of the shipment and the measure of the shipment.

WPA

Abbreviation for "With Particular Average."

W.T.L.

Western Truck Lines.

WWD

Weather Working Days.

XYZ

Yard

A classification, storage or switching area.

York-Antwerp Rules of 1974

Established the standard basis for adjusting general average and stated the rules for adjusting claims.

Zulu Time

Time based on Greenwich Mean Time.
