

## Glossary of Freight Shipping Terms

### A

- **Air Waybill (Abbreviation: AWB):**

A document made out by or on behalf of the carrier(s) confirming receipt of the goods by the carrier and evidencing the contract between the shipper and the carrier(s) for the carriage of goods as described therein.

- **Arbitrary:**

A fixed amount added to a rate to one station to make a rate to another station.

- **Arrival Notice:**

A notice from the ocean carrier to the "notify party," indicating the vessel's estimated arrival date; identifying shipment details such as number of packages, weight, and container number; and indicating when free time expires. Often includes a freight invoice.

### B

- **Bill of Lading:**

*Abbreviation: B/L, plural B/Ls.*

A document which evidences a contract of carriage by sea.

Express B/L - Non-negotiable where there are no printed copies of original B/L.

- **Bill of Sale:**

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

- **Booking:**

The offering by a shipper of cargo for transport and the acceptance of the offering by the carrier or his agent.

- **Booking Reference Number:**

The number assigned to a certain booking by the carrier or his agent.

## C

- **Certificate of Origin:**

A certificate, showing the country of original production of goods. Frequently used by customs in ascertaining duties under preferential tariff programs or in connection with regulating imports from specific sources.

- **Commercial Invoice:**

A document showing commercial values of the transaction between the buyer and seller. Especially needed for airfreight shipments.

- **Consignee:**

The party such as mentioned in the transport document by whom the goods, cargo or containers are to be received.

- **Consolidation Container:**

Container stuffed with several shipments (consignments) from different shippers for delivery to one or more consignees.

- **Container Freight Station (Abbreviation: CFS):**

A facility at which (export) LCL cargo is received from merchants for loading (stuffing) into containers or at which (import) LCL cargo is unloaded (stripped) from containers and delivered to merchants.

- **Container Number:**

Identification number (container prefix) of a container consisting of prefix and serial number and check digit. (e.g. MAEU 123456-7)

- **Container Service Charges:**

Charges at destination to be paid by cargo interests as per tariff. This charge is considered accessorial and is added to the base ocean freight. It covers crane lifts off the vessel, drayage of the

container within the terminal and gate fees at the terminal operation.

- **Cut-Off Time:**

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

## **D**

- **Dangerous Goods:**

Goods are to be considered dangerous if the transport of such goods might cause harm, risk, peril, or other evil to people, environment, equipment or any property whatsoever.

- **Dangerous Goods Declarations:**

Document issued by a consignor in accordance with applicable conventions or regulations, describing hazardous goods or materials for transport purposes, and stating that the latter have been packed and labeled in accordance with the provisions of the relevant conventions or regulations.

- **Dangerous Goods Packing Certificate:**

A document as part of the dangerous goods declaration in which the responsible party declares that the cargo has been stowed in accordance with the rules in a clean container in compliance with the IMDG regulations and properly secured.

- **Demurrage:**

Additional charge imposed for exceeding the free time which is included in the rate and allowed for the use of a container or other equipment at the terminal.

- **Dock Receipt (Abbreviation: D/R):**

A document issued which includes booking number, WSA REF#, shipment description, physical details and shipping information. Used by both shipper and carrier to verify shipment particulars, condition, and delivery to carrier.

- **Door-to-Door:**

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

## E

- **Estimated Time of Arrival (Abbreviation: ETA)**

The expected date and time of arrival in a certain (air)port.

- **Estimated Time of Departure (Abbreviation: ETD):**

The expected date and time when a certain (air)port is left.

- **Export License:**

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

- **Export Request Form:**

Document showing the Shipping Instruction, advising details of cargo, cargo routing and payment terms.

## F / G

- **Free Time**

Time allowed shippers or receivers to load or unload cargo before demurrage, detention, and other charges accrue

- **Freight Collect**

Freight charges to be paid by the consignee at destination.

- **Freight Prepaid**

Freight charges to be paid by the shipper/exporter prior to sail.

- **Full Container Load (Abbreviation: FCL):**

see also Less Than Container Load

- **Gross Ton:**

1 gross ton = 2,240 pounds.

## H/I

- High Cube:

Any container which exceeds 8 feet 6 inches (102 inches) in height. see container type

- Import License

A government document which permits the "License" to engage in the import of designated goods into certain countries.

## J/K

- Kilogram

1 kg = 1,000 grams = 2.2046 pounds.

## L

- Letter of Credit (Abbreviation: L/C)

A written undertaking by a bank (issuing bank) given to the seller (beneficiary) at the request, and on the instructions of the buyer (applicant) to pay at sight or at a determinable future date up to a stated sum of money, within a prescribed time limit and against stipulated documents.

- Less than Container Load (Abbreviation: LCL)

For operational purposes a LCL (Less than full container load) container is considered a container in which multiple consignments or parts thereof are shipped.

- Long Ton

1 Long Ton = 2,240 pounds.

## M

- Marine Insurance Policy

An insurance policy protecting the insured against loss or damage to his goods occurring during ocean transport.

- Metric Ton

1 metric ton = 1,000 kilograms = 2,204.6 pounds.

## N

- **Non Vessel Operating Common Carrier Abbreviation: NVOCC**

A party who undertakes to carry goods and issues in his own name a Bill of Lading for such carriage, without having own vessel or the availability of own means of transport.

- **Notify Party**

The party to be notified of arrival of goods. Address of the party other than the consignee to be advised of the arrival of the goods.

## O

- **Oncarriage**

The carriage of goods (containers) by any mode of transport to the place of delivery after discharge from the ocean vessel (main means of transport) at the port (place) of discharge.

- **Open Top Container**

A freight container similar in all respects to a general purpose container except that it has no rigid roof but may have a flexible and movable or removable cover, for example one made of canvas or plastic or reinforced plastic material normally supported on movable or removable roof bows. see container type

## P / Q

- **Packing List**

Itemized list specifying the contents of each individual package with marks/numbers.

- **Port of Discharge**

The port where the cargo is actually discharged (unloaded) from the sea (ocean) going vessel.

- **Port of Loading**

The port where the cargo is actually loaded on board the sea (ocean) going vessel.

- **Pre-carriage**

The carriage of goods (containers) by any mode of transport from the place of receipt to the port (place) of loading into the ocean vessel (main means of transport).

## R

- **Reefer Container**

Refrigerated container. A thermal container with refrigerating appliances to control the temperature of cargo. see container type

- **Ro/Ro**

Roll-on/roll-off Vessel used for carrying automobiles and light trucks. Vehicles are driven on and driven off, as opposed to being loaded with cranes or other external equipment. Also used for wheeled cargo (boats, trailer, machinery) that can be rolled on or off the vessel, either by its own power ("self-propelled") or towed on and off.

## S/T

- **Shipper**

The merchant (person) by whom, in whose name or on whose behalf a contract of carriage of goods has been concluded with a carrier or any party by whom, in whose name or on whose behalf the goods are actually delivered to the carrier in relation to the contract of carriage.

- **Short Ton (Abbreviation: ST)**

short ton = 2,000 lbs.

- **Storage Charge**

The fee for keeping goods/container in a warehouse/terminal after free time runs out.

- **Transshipment**

An operation whereby cargo is discharged from the vessel in a port en route and subsequently reloaded onto another vessel to reach its final destination.

## U/V

### U

- USA Reference Number (Abbreviation: USA REF# ):

The number assigned to a certain shipment/booking by Worldwide Shipping Agency.

- Waiting Time:

The period of time between the moment at which container is delivered and when container is ready to leave. Free waiting time is between 1-3 hours. Waiting time thereafter is on the account of shipper/consignee.

## X/Y/Z