



Your key to the world

International Shipping Terms

Bill of Lading (B/L)	A document that establishes the terms of a contract between a shipper and a transportation company that moves freight between specified ports for a specified charge.
Breakbulk	Palletised packaged goods that are not containerised. To break bulk is to unload and distribute a portion or all of the contents of a rail car.
Bonded Warehouse	Warehouse approved by the Customs Department and under bond or guarantee of compliance with revenue laws. Goods are held until duties are paid and are normally stored in a bonded warehouse.
ATA Carnet	A Customs document permitting the holder to temporarily carry or send merchandise into certain foreign countries without paying duties or posting bonds.
Certificate of Origin	A document used to assure the buying country precisely in which country the goods were produced. The certification of the origin of the merchandise is usually performed by a recognised Chamber of Commerce or embassy / consulate.
Dangerous Goods	The term used by the International Maritime Organisation for hazardous cargo or materials. This includes articles or substances capable of posing a significant risk to health, safety or property, and that ordinarily require special attention when being transported.
Detention	A penalty charge against shippers or receivers for delaying the carrier's equipment outside the port, terminal or depot beyond the allowed Free Time.
ETA	Liner schedules publish ETD and ETA since they cannot be held responsible for lateness due to bad weather conditions.
ETD	The expected date and time when a certain port is left.
(FCL)	A general reference for identifying container loads of cargo loaded and/or discharged at merchants' premises.
Feeder Service	A vessel which transfers containers to a "mother ship" for an ocean voyage.
Freight	Refers to either the cargo carried or the charges assessed for carriage of the cargo.
INCOTerms	Incoterms or international commercial terms are a series of international sales terms, published by International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and are widely used in international commercial transactions.
(LCL)	The quantity of freight which is less than that required for the application of a container load rate. Loose freight.
Shippers Letter of Instruction (SLI)	A form issued by a shipper to authorize a carrier to issue a bill of lading or air way bill on their behalf.
Storage	The logistics charge for the costs related to quay rent, charged on both the carrier's equipment or the shipper's equipment for containers staying on the ground idle.
(VGM)	From 1st July 2016, shippers will be required to provide the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) of each shipment to their ocean carrier. The responsibility is with the shipper to confirm the VGM before the carrier's load list cut-off date.