



Glossary of Transportation Terms

A

Absolute Minimum Charge- the minimum charge after application of all pricing terms.

Accessibility- a carrier's ability to provide service between an origin and a destination.

Accessorial Service- A service offered in addition to the transportation of goods, such as stopping in transit to complete loading or to partially unload or storage.

Advanced Charge - the amount of freight or other charge on a shipment advanced by one transportation line to another, or to the shipper to be collected from the consignee.

Agent - a person authorized to transact business for and in the name of another.

Aggregate Shipments - numerous shipments from different shippers to one consignee that are consolidated and treated as a single consignment.

Air Carrier- An enterprise that offers transportation service via air.

Allowance- a sum granted as reimbursement or repayment or a deduction from the gross weight or value of goods.

Application of Rates - the points from, to, or between which the rates and routes shown in the publication, pricing agreement or customer contract applies.

Arrival Notice - a notice, furnished to the consignee, of the arrival of freight.

Assign - to transfer to another party.

Auditing- determining the correct transportation charges due to the carrier; auditing involves checking the freight bill for errors, correct rate and weight.

B

Back Haul- traffic moving in direction of light flow when a carrier's traffic on route is heavier in one direction than the other; to haul a shipment back over a part of a route it has traveled.

Balloon Freight- light, bulky cargo.

Bar Coding- a method of encoding data for fast and accurate readability.

Basing Rate - a rate used only for the purpose of constructing other rates.

Base Currency- the currency whose value is "one" whenever a quote is made between two currencies.

Batch Picking- the picking of items from storage for more than one order at a time.

Bill of Lading - a commercial shipping document which serves three distinct purposes in connection with the carriage of goods. An itemized list of goods contained in a shipment. It is a receipt from the carrier for the goods, represents the contract for carriage and serves as a document of title.

Billed Weight- the weight shown on a freight bill.

Binder- strip of cardboard, thin wood, burlap or similar material placed between layers of containers to hold a stack together.

Bonded Warehouse - a warehouse approved by the Treasury Department, utilized for storing goods until duties are paid or goods are otherwise properly released.

Booking- arrangements with a carrier for the acceptance and carriage of freight; a reservation of space on a carrier.

Breakbulk- a large terminal that separates composite loads onto individual shipments and routes them to different destinations; also called a breakbulk point, break, hub or distribution center.

Brokerage License- authority granted to persons to engage in the business of arranging for transportation of persons property in interstate commerce.

Bulk Fright- freight not in packages or containers.

C

Cab- the driver's compartment of a truck or tractor-trailer.

Capacity Load - that quantity of freight which, in the manner loaded, fills a vehicle to the extent that no additional article in the shipping form tendered identical in size to the largest article in the shipment can be loaded.

Cargo Claim- a written demand made for payment because of loss or damage alleged to have occurred while shipment was in possession of a carrier; demand of a refund due to overcharge.

Carrier's Freight Terminal - the freight depot or freight station of the carrier at which shipments are ordinarily loaded or unloaded.

Cartage - freight hauling between locations in the same city, town, suburb, or local area.

Certificate of Insurance- an authoritative statement that freight has been insured.

Claim - a written demand made upon carrier for payment because 1) of loss or damage alleged to have occurred while shipment was in carrier's possession, or 2) of a refund due to overcharge.

Class I Motor Carriers- common or contract motor carriers of property that have annual carrier operating revenues of less than \$1 million from motor carrier operations.

Class II Motor Carriers- common or contract motor carriers of property that have annual carrier operating revenues of \$1 million but no more than \$5 million.

Class III Motor Carriers- common or contract motor carriers of property that have average gross operating revenues of less than \$1 million from motor carrier operations.

Classification (rating)- the class to which an article is assigned for the purpose of applying transportation charges.

Classification or Freight Class - the class to which an article is assigned for the purpose of applying transportation charges.

Clear Record- a record that shows that a shipment was handled without loss or damage.

COD - cash or check paid for goods at delivery, which may include the cost of shipping.

Collector of Customs - a representative of the U.S. Treasury Department acting for the government in connection with foreign traffic.

Combination Rate - a rate made by combining two or more rates in different publications.

Combination Through Rate - a through rate made by combining two or more rates in different publications.

Commercial Zone - a geographical area of commercial influence of a specified point.

Commodity - any article of freight. Goods shipped.

Commodity Rate - a rate applicable to a specific article described or named in the publication containing the rate.

Concealed Loss or Damage- loss or damage to the contents of a package that is not apparent until opened.

Connecting Carrier - a carrier which has a direct, physical connection with another or forms a connecting link between two or more carriers.

Consignee - the person or organization to whom freight is shipped.

Consignor – The person or organization that originated a shipment.

Cubic Foot - 1,728 cubic inches. (12 x 12 x 12 = 1728)

Cubic Capacity - the carrying capacity of a truck according to measurement in cubic feet.

CWT - per hundred pounds.

D

Dead Head- movement of freight without charges or movement of empty trailer.

Declared Value- the shipper's stated value of entire shipment in terms of dollars.

Delivery - the act of transferring possession, such as the transfer of property from shipper to carrier, one carrier to another or carrier to consignee.

Destination - the place to which a shipment is consigned.

Detention - a charge made for a vehicle held by or for shipper or consignee for loading or unloading, for forwarding directions or for any other purpose.

Direct - via the route of a single carrier.

Dispatching- the scheduling and control of trucks for pickup and delivery or travel between terminals.

Distribution - generally considered to be the act of delivering less-than-truckload shipments within a city or an area beyond.

Diversions - is any shipment relinquished to the shipper, consignee or his agent at point of origin or intermediate point or before the shipment has reached its final or ultimate destination

Dock - the platform where trucks are loaded and unloaded.

Double Bottom- a combination of two-semi trailers or a semi-trailer and a full trailer pulled by a tractor.

Doubles Trailer - A trailer not exceeding twenty-nine (29) feet in length.

Drayage- the charge made for hauling freight on carts, drays or trucks.

Dunnage - the material used to protect or support freight in or on trucks.

Duty - a tax levied by a government on the import, export, use or consumption of goods.

E

Enroute - on the way to destination.

Entry (Customs) - a statement of the kinds, quantities and values of goods imported together with duties due, if any, and declared before a customs office or other designated officer.

Excess Value Liability- an amount of value above carrier's maximum liability defined herein.

Exclusive Use of Trailer - a request made by a shipper, on the bill of lading, for the complete use of a trailer.

Export - any traffic having a subsequent movement to a foreign country.

Extended Service - a service offered by carrier in addition to the transportation of goods, such as stopping in transit to complete loading or to partially unload, performing inside delivery or storing freight.

F

Freight All Kinds (FAK) - the abbreviation applied to a pooling of different commodities for simplification of rating or pricing.

Feeder Services- short transportation lines running from a truck line into nearby areas to collect and distribute freight for the main line; usually 25 to 35 miles long.

Fixed Charges - charges which do not vary with an increase or decrease in traffic.

Flat Bed- a semi-trailer with no sides with a floor of standard height from the ground.

Fork Lift - a machine used to pick up and move goods loaded on pallets or skids.

Free Time - the period allowed the owner to accept delivery before storage charges begin to accrue.

Freight - merchandise hauled by a transportation line.

Freight Bill - Document for common carrier shipment. Gives description of the freight, amount of charges, taxes and whether prepaid or collect. Charges paid by the shipper are called prepaid freight bills. Charges collected at destination are called destination or collect freight bills.

Freight Bill Number- the number issued to each shipment by the carrier and used for computer tracking of the shipment to its destination; the PRO number.

Freight Charge- payment due for freight transportation.

Freight Forwarder- one who assembles small shipments into one large shipment that is then tendered to a regulated over-the-road carrier. Upon reaching destination, the shipment is separated into small shipments.

Full Trailer- truck trailer with wheels on both ends (as compared to a semi-trailer in which the front rests on the rear of the power unit).

G

Government Bill of Lading (GBL). – Bill of lading issued by the US Government.

Gross Weight - the weight of an article, together with the weight of its container and the material used in packing. As applied to a truck, the weight of the truck, together with the weight of its entire contents.

H

Hazardous Material (HM) - a substance or material which has been determined by the Department of Transportation to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety and property when transported in commerce. A complete listing of hazardous material can be found in 49 CFR 172.101.

Head Hall- traffic moving in the direction of heavy flow when a carrier's traffic on a route is heavier in one direction than the other.

Heater Service- protection by heat of freight that would be damaged by freezing.

Hub- a terminal where composite loads are separated into individual shipments and routed to different destinations; a terminal serving end of line terminals; the 'hub' of a hub-and-spoke system is the break, breakbulk or distribution center and the 'spokes' lead to the EOL terminals it serves.

Hundred Weight - a statement of weight meaning 100 pounds, abbreviated CWT.

I

Import - any traffic having a prior movement from a foreign country.

In-Bond - shipments moving under U.S. Customs Bond.

Individual Tariff- a tariff issued by a transportation line individually.

Inland Carrier - a transportation line which hauls export or import traffic between ports and inland points.

Insurance Requirements- the types and levels of insurance that a carrier, freight forwarder or property broker must have in effect.

Interchange - transfer of freight from one carrier to another.

Interline – Shipment of freight moving between two or more carriers.

Interline Freight- freight moving from point of origin to destination over the lines of two or more transportation providers.

Intermodal- movement of cargo between motor, air, sea and rail transportation; equipment that is compatible with multiple transportation systems; multimodal.

Interstate - traffic having origin in one state and destination in another state.

Intrastate - traffic having origin, destination, and entire transportation within the same state.

J

Joint Traffic - traffic handled by more than one carrier.

K

Knocked Down - an article taken apart, folded or telescoped so as to reduce its normal cubage when set up or assembled by 33 1/3%.

Knocked Down Flat - an article taken apart, folded or telescoped so as to reduce its normal cubage when set up or assembled by 66 2/3%.

Known Damage- damage discovered before or at the time of delivery of a shipment.

Known Loss- a loss discovered before or at the time of delivery of a shipment.

L

Lading - that which constitutes a load. The freight in a vehicle.

Lift Gate- a powered tail-gate capable of lifting a load from street level to level of the truck or trailer floor.

LTL (Less-than-Truckload) - a quantity of freight less than that required for the application of truckload rate; quantity of freight weighing less than 20,000 pounds or occupying less than the full visible capacity of a Double Trailer or a Standard Trailer, and whose rate or rating is subject to a minimum weight of less than 20,000 pounds or is less than TL.

Line haul - the movement of freight between cities, excluding pickup and delivery service.

Loading- furnishing the BOL, forwarding directions or other documents necessary for forwarding the shipment; notification that the vehicle is loaded and ready for forwarding.

Local Delivery- those points served direct and are within 25 miles of the original destination.

Loose - not packed.

Low Boy- a semi-trailer with no sides and with the floor of the unit close to the ground; usually used in transporting heavy machinery or large objects.

Low-Bed Trailer- open truck trailer constructed to provide a low platform height; designed for the transportation of extremely heavy or bulky property.

M

M- Thousand Pounds.

Manifest- a document describing a shipment or the contents of a vehicle or ship.

Maximum Rate - the highest rate that may be charged.

Mileage Rate - rates applied per mile from origin to destination.

Minimum Charge (MC) - the least charge for which a shipment will be handled.

Minimum Truckload- the weight at which shipment is handled at a truckload rate.

Mixed Truckload - a truckload of different articles combined into a single shipment.

Mode - means of transportation (e.g. air, water, highway, rail)

Motor Vehicle - any vehicle, machine, tractor, trailer or semitrailer propelled or drawn by mechanical power and used upon the highways in transportation of passengers or property.

Multi-Modal- movement of cargo between motor, air, sea and rail transportation; equipment that is compatible with multiple transportation systems; inter-modal.

N

National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC) - a publication for motor carriers containing rules, descriptions and ratings on all commodities moving in commerce.

Nested - packed one within another.

Net Linehaul Charges – Net charges determined by multiplying the weight of each item in the shipment times the applicable rates, less any discounts, plus any applicable premiums.

Net Weight - the weight of an article exclusive of packaging or dunnage.

Notice - information given signifying the accomplishment of an act, such as the placement of a trailer for loading or unloading.

Notify Party- the name of an organization that should be notified when a shipment reaches its destination.

O

Origin- location where cargo begins movement.

Over, Short and Damaged (OS&D)- a shipment that has been damaged or lost in transit or that arrives with more or less containers than originally shipped.

Overage - excess freight; more than the quantity believed to have been shipped, or more than the quantity shown on the shipping document.

Overheight Cargo- an item or items more than 8' high.

Owner-Operator-a trucking operation in which the truck's owner is also the driver.

P

Packing List - a detailed inventory of items contained in a shipment.

Pallet - a small wooden, paper or metal platform usually with top and bottom, on which packaged goods are placed to facilitate movement by some type of freight handling equipment.

Palletized- stacked on pallets.

P & D - pickup and delivery of freight.

Per Diem- a charge, based on a fixed daily rate.

Perishable Freight- freight subject to decay or deterioration.

Pickup - service of a carrier in calling for and collecting freight to be transported over its line.

Piggyback- transportation of a highway trailer on a railroad flat car.

Point of Entry - a port at which foreign goods are admitted into the receiving country. Ports of entry are officially designated by the government.

Point of Origin - the terminal which picks up freight from a shipper.

Prepaid - a term denoting that transportation charges have been paid or are to be paid by the shipper.

Preferred Carrier- carrier's recommended and promoted by the service contractor to handle transportation services for exhibitors at a trade show, also a primary carrier.

Prepaid Freight- freight paid by the shipper to the carrier when merchandise is tendered for shipment that is not refundable if the merchandise does not arrive at the intended location.

Pricing Agreement- Published document between Carrier and customer outlining agreed upon rates, discounts, allowances and terms.

Primary Carrier- carrier recommended and promoted by the service contractor to handle transportation services for exhibitors at a respective trade show; also house or preferred carrier.

Private Residence - apartments, churches, schools, camps and other such locations not generally recognized as commercial locations and shall apply to the entire premises, except any portion of the premises where commercial or business activity is conducted that involves the sales of services, products or merchandise to the walk-in public during normal business hours.

Product Density- the density of a product in its packaging. (weight divided by volume).

PRO - a number issued to each shipment of freight by the carrier and used for computer tracking of the shipment to its destination.

Prohibited Articles - articles which will not be handled.

Proof of Delivery - (also called P.O.D.) the copy of the freight bill signed by receiver at time of delivery.

Proportional Rate - a rate specifically published to be used only as a factor in making a combination through rate.

Q

Quasi-Modal- transportation in some form or degree.

Quotation- an offer to sell goods or services at a stated price and at stated terms.

R

Rail Carrier- an enterprise that offers service via rail carriage.

Rate - the charge for transporting freight.

Rate Basis Number - number used to determine rates applicable between two points.

Rate Basis Point - point on which rate are made or at which the rate is divided; or point to which other points are assigned for purposes of determining rates.

Rate Scale - a table of rates graduated according to distances or zones.

Receiver- an enterprise that receives goods/services.

Reconsignment - a change in the route, made in a consignment before the arrival of the goods at their billed destination; or any change made in a consignment after the arrival of goods at their billed destination.

Reefer- a refrigerated container.

Relay- to transfer containers or trailers within a carrier's network.

Released Value - value of goods set by shipper in consideration of rate to be charged.

Remittance- funds from one party to another as payment.

Request for Proposal (RFP)- a request given to contractors to begin the bid process for contract.

Restricted Articles - articles which are handled only under certain conditions.

Return to Shipper- a shipment returned to the location it was originally tendered to the carrier.

Route - the course or direction that a shipment moves.

S

Seal - a device for fastening or locking the doors of a truck.

Scale of Rates - numerous rates adjusted with reaction to each other.

Semi-Trailer - a vehicle without motive power designed to be drawn by another vehicle and so constructed that some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon, or is carried by, a towing vehicle.

Set-Up - a term denoting complete assembly of an article or an assembled article.

Shipment - one or more pieces of freight with the same shipper or consignee tendered to a carrier at the same time and place.

Shipper - company or individual who initiates the transport of goods.

Shipper Load and Count- the process by which the shipper places goods into a trailer at his own site with no opportunity for a joint check of the goods; the shipper is then responsible for the proper loading and verification of the goods being shipped.

Shipping Order - The carrier's copy of the bill of lading.

Shrink Wrap- heat-treated polyethylene that conforms to a package or packages on a pallet.

Single Shipment Minimum Charge (SSMC)- when a single shipment is tendered at one time and place, the shipment will be subject to the Single Shipment Minimum Charge.

Site- a specific location at or on the premises of the consignor, consignee or other party.

Standard Carrier Abbreviation Code (SCAC)- three-letter carrier identification; an owner code.

Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)- a numerical code system used to classify products and services.

Standard Rate- a rate established via direct routes from one point or another in relation to which the rates via other routes between same points are made.

Statute of Limitation- a statement within the BOL contract that places a limit on the time in which claims or suit may be instituted.

Storage – Freight is held on carrier's premises, usually for a daily charge.

Straight Bill of Lading- a non-negotiable document by which a carrier acknowledges receipt of freight and contracts for its movement. Surrender of the original straight BOL is not required, except when necessary for the purpose of identifying the consignee.

Supplement (Tariff)- a publication containing additions or changes in a tariff.

T

Tare Weight - the weight of a container and the material used for packing.

Tariff- a schedule of transportation charges. Carrier's published rates, accessorial charges and rules.

Tender - to offer goods for transportation, or to offer to place trucks for loading or unloading.

Terminal - a building for the handling and temporary storage of freight pending transfer between locations.

Third Party - a payor of the freight charges shown on the bill of lading that is neither the shipper or consignee.

Third Party Logistics- a firm that supplies logistics services to other companies.

Through Rate - a rate applicable from a point of origin to destination. A through rate may be either a joint rate or a combination of two or more rates.

Tolerance- an allowance made for difference in weights due to variations in scales or inherent nature of goods.

Tonnage - the number of tons of freight handled.

Trace- to follow the movement of a shipment.

Tracking- a system of recording movements of shipments from origins to destinations.

Tractor- a mechanically powered unit to propel or draw a trailer or trailers.

Transit Time- the total time that elapses between a shipment's delivery and its pickup.

Truckload (TL) – quantity of freight weighing 20,000 pounds or more, or occupies the full visible capacity of Double Trailer or a Standard Trailer, or whose TL rating is subject to a minimum weight of 20,000 pounds or more. Quantity of freight required to fill a truck. When used in connection with freight rates, the quantity of freight necessary to qualify shipment for a truckload rate.

U

U. S. Mainland - the 48 contiguous states.

Unloading- the surrender of the BOL on shipments billed 'To Order'; payment of lawful charges to the carrier when required prior to delivery of the shipment; notification that the vehicle is unloaded and ready for forwarding; signing of delivery receipt.

V

Valuation, Actual - actual value of goods required to be shown on the bill of lading by shippers, where rate applied is dependent upon that fact.

Vehicle - either a trailer which does not exceed 50 feet in length, or 2 trailers, each of which does not exceed 29 feet in length.

W

Warehouse - a place for the receipt and storage of goods.

Waybill - description of goods sent with a common carrier freight shipment (Same as freight bill).

Weight Break- the shipment volume at which the LTL charges equal the TL charges at the minimum weight.

Y

Yard- a classification, storage or switching area.