

Sea Freight Glossary

Common sea freight, ocean carrier, port, documentation, insurance, and trade terms used for FCL, LCL, breakbulk, customs, and quoting support.

Term	Definition
Abandonment	Relinquishing rights to cargo or property, often after loss, damage, or refusal of shipment responsibility.
Absorption	A carrier or forwarder absorbing a charge rather than passing it separately to the customer.
Advanced Manifest Information (ACI)	Pre-arrival cargo data submitted to customs authorities before cargo reaches the destination country.
Advanced Filing Rules (AFR)	Japan cargo security filing rules requiring advance electronic cargo information before loading.
Advanced Manifest System (AMS)	U.S. Customs electronic system for advance ocean cargo manifest data.
Acceptance of Goods	The point when a carrier or forwarder receives cargo and accepts it for transportation.
Actual Time Arrival (ATA)	The actual date and time a vessel, conveyance, or shipment arrives.
Actual Voyage Number	The voyage identifier assigned to the vessel sailing actually carrying the cargo.
Ad Valorem	Based on the declared or assessed value of the goods.
Ad Valorem Duty	Customs duty calculated as a percentage of the value of imported goods.
Advance against Documents	A financing arrangement where funds are advanced against shipping or commercial documents.
Advance Freight	Freight charges paid before shipment or before delivery of the goods.
Advice Notice	A notice communicating shipment, document, arrival, or payment information to an interested party.
Advice of Fate	Notice advising what has happened to a collection, draft, or shipping document.
Advising Bank	Bank that authenticates and forwards a letter of credit to the beneficiary.
Affreightment	A contract for the carriage of goods by sea.
Agency Fee	Fee charged by an agent for arranging or administering shipment services.
Agent	A party authorized to act for a carrier, shipper, consignee, or forwarder.
All Risk Insurance	Cargo insurance covering many external risks of physical loss or damage, subject to exclusions.
Apparel	Clothing and textile articles shipped as cargo, often subject to specific customs rules.
Approved Continuous Examination Program (ACEP)	Program allowing ongoing inspection and maintenance of containers under approved procedures.
Approved Vessel	A vessel accepted by relevant parties or authorities for a particular carriage or trade.
Arbitrage	Using price, rate, or market differences between locations or contracts to gain advantage.
Arrival Notice	Notice issued to the consignee or notify party advising that cargo has arrived or is due to arrive.
Assignment	Transfer of rights, title, interest, or proceeds from one party to another.

Term	Definition
Assignment of Proceeds	Transfer of the right to receive payment proceeds, commonly under a letter of credit.
Assured Party	The party protected by an insurance policy.
Auto Container	A container designed or used for moving automobiles or vehicles.
Average Adjusters	Specialists who calculate marine loss contributions, especially in general average cases.
Average Clause	Marine insurance clause describing how partial losses or average contributions are handled.
Back Letter	A side letter or undertaking, often used to address documentary or liability matters.
Balespace	Internal cubic capacity available in a vessel or hold for packaged cargo.
Ballast	Water or weight used to stabilize a vessel when cargo load is light or uneven.
Bank Draft	Payment instrument ordering one bank to pay a stated amount to a named party.
Bank Guarantee	A bank undertaking to pay if the party it guarantees fails to perform or pay.
Bank Release	Bank authorization releasing shipping documents or cargo control after payment or conditions are met.
Bareboat Charter	Charter arrangement where the charterer takes possession and control of the vessel without crew.
Barge	Flat-bottomed vessel used mainly for inland, harbor, or feeder cargo movements.
Bay	A numbered section of a container vessel where containers are stowed.
Bay Plan	Plan showing container positions on a vessel by bay, row, and tier.
Berth	Designated place at a port where a vessel docks for loading or discharge.
Bill of Lading (B/L)	Transport document serving as cargo receipt, evidence of contract of carriage, and sometimes document of title.
Blank Sailing	A scheduled sailing canceled or skipped by the carrier.
Blue Anchor Line (BAL)	Historic shipping line or service name used in ocean transport references.
Blue Anchor America Line (BAAL)	Historic or trade-specific shipping line or service name used in ocean transport references.
Bonded Shipments	Goods moving under customs bond before duties, taxes, or formal entry are completed.
Booking	Reservation of space with a carrier for cargo movement.
Booking Reference Number	Carrier or forwarder reference confirming the cargo space reservation.
Break Bulk	Cargo carried loose or in individual units instead of in containers or bulk form.
Break Bulk Cargo	Non-containerized cargo handled as separate pieces, crates, bundles, or units.
Broker	Intermediary arranging transportation, customs, chartering, or commercial services.
Bulk Cargo	Unpackaged homogeneous cargo such as grain, coal, ore, or liquid commodities.
Bulk Carrier	Vessel designed to carry unpackaged dry bulk commodities.
Bulk Container	Container designed for loose bulk commodities loaded through top hatches or openings.
Bull Rings	Securing rings inside a container used to lash or tie down cargo.
Bunker	Fuel used by a vessel.

Term	Definition
Bunker Adjustment Factor (BAF)	Surcharge used to adjust freight for changes in vessel fuel cost.
Bunker Charges (BUC)	Charges related to vessel fuel costs.
Buyers Consolidation (BC)	Program combining multiple suppliers orders for one buyer into optimized consolidated shipments.
C.O.G.S.A.	Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, governing certain ocean carrier responsibilities and liabilities.
CBM	Cubic meter; a volume measurement used to rate and describe cargo.
Currency Charge (CCH)	Charge related to currency conversion or exchange exposure.
Currency Adjustment Factor (CAF)	Surcharge or adjustment applied to account for currency exchange fluctuations.
Call	A vessel visit to a port during its voyage rotation.
Cargo Handling	Physical movement, loading, unloading, stowing, or securing of cargo.
Cargo Restriction Code	Code identifying restrictions that apply to a commodity or cargo movement.
Carnet ATA	International customs document allowing temporary admission of goods without paying duties, subject to rules.
Carrier	Party undertaking carriage of goods by sea or other mode.
Carrier Haulage	Inland movement arranged by the ocean carrier.
Carriers' Lien	Carrier right to retain cargo until freight, charges, or other amounts due are paid.
Cash Against Documents (CAD)	Payment arrangement where documents are released to the buyer against payment.
Cash on Delivery (COD)	Shipment or sale where payment is collected at delivery.
Certificate of Classification	Document confirming a vessel is classed by a classification society.
Certificate of Insurance	Evidence that cargo insurance coverage has been issued.
Certificate of Manufacture	Document certifying that goods were manufactured as described.
Certificate of Origin	Document stating the country where goods were produced or manufactured.
CFR (... Named Port of Destination)	Incoterm: seller pays cost and freight to the named destination port; risk transfers when goods are on board.
Charter Party	Contract between vessel owner and charterer for use of a vessel or space.
Charterer	Party hiring a vessel or vessel space under a charter party.
CIF (Named Port of Destination)	Incoterm: seller pays cost, insurance, and freight to the named destination port; risk transfers on board.
CIM	International rail consignment note rules/document used under rail carriage conventions.
CIP (...Named Place of Destination)	Incoterm: seller pays carriage and insurance to a named place; risk transfers to first carrier.
Classification Societies	Organizations that set and verify technical standards for vessels and marine equipment.
Clean Bill of Lading	Bill of lading without notations of apparent cargo or packaging damage.
Collecting Bank	Bank that collects payment or acceptance from the buyer in a documentary collection.
Collection Papers	Documents presented through banks for payment or acceptance in a collection transaction.

Term	Definition
Commercial Invoice	Seller invoice describing goods, value, parties, and sale terms for customs and payment.
CTD	Combined Transport Document covering multimodal carriage under one transport document.
Confirmed Letter of Credit	Letter of credit with an additional bank guarantee beyond the issuing bank.
Consolidated Container	Container loaded with cargo from more than one shipper or for more than one consignee.
Container	Standardized transport equipment used to carry cargo by ocean, rail, and truck.
Container Freight Station (CFS)	Facility where LCL cargo is received, consolidated, devanned, or released.
Container Number	Unique alpha-numeric identification number marked on a container.
Container Yard (CY)	Carrier-controlled facility where full containers are received, stored, and released.
Contractual Carrier	Carrier named in the contract of carriage, even if another party performs the move.
Correspondent Bank	Bank acting for or with another bank in a different location or transaction.
CFR	Cost and Freight Incoterm; seller pays ocean freight to destination port, risk transfers at loading on vessel.
CIF	Cost, Insurance and Freight Incoterm; seller pays freight and minimum insurance to destination port.
CPT	Carriage Paid To Incoterm; seller pays carriage to named destination, risk transfers to first carrier.
CIP	Carriage and Insurance Paid To Incoterm; seller pays carriage and insurance to named destination.
Customs-Trade Partnership against Terrorism (C-TPAT)	U.S. Customs supply-chain security partnership program for trusted trade participants.
Dangerous Goods (DG)	Cargo classified as hazardous and subject to special packing, marking, documentation, and stowage rules.
Dangerous Goods Declaration	Document declaring hazardous cargo details required for acceptance and transport.
DDP (...Named Place of Destination)	Incoterm: seller delivers to named place cleared for import with duties and taxes paid.
DDU (...Named Place of Destination Unpaid)	Legacy Incoterm where seller delivers to destination without paying import duties or taxes.
Declared Value for Carriage	Value declared to the carrier that may affect liability limits or charges.
Deconsolidation	Breaking a consolidated shipment into individual consignments for delivery or release.
Demurrage Charges	Charges for containers remaining at a terminal beyond allowed free time.
Detention Charges	Charges for holding carrier equipment outside the terminal beyond allowed free time.
Devanning	Unloading cargo from a container.
Documentary Credit	Bank payment undertaking, commonly known as a letter of credit, based on presentation of complying documents.
Deadweight (DWT)	Total carrying capacity of a vessel including cargo, fuel, stores, water, and crew.
Delivery Order	Document authorizing release or delivery of cargo to a named party.
Delivery Receipt	Receipt acknowledging delivery of cargo, often noting quantity and condition.
Delivery Time	Time period or date when cargo is delivered to the consignee or destination.

Term	Definition
Drop-off Charge	Charge for returning equipment to a location different from the agreed or usual location.
Dry Bulk Container	Container suited for dry loose bulk cargo.
Dry Cargo Container	Standard general-purpose container for non-refrigerated dry cargo.
Duty Free Zone	Designated area where goods may be stored or processed with duties deferred or exempted under rules.
Double Blind Shipment	Shipment arranged so shipper and consignee details are concealed from each other where permitted.
Drayage	Short-haul trucking of containers between port, rail ramp, warehouse, or customer location.
Drop	Placement of a container or trailer at a location for later loading or unloading.
Drop Fee	Charge for dropping or positioning equipment for later pickup.
EORI	Economic Operators Registration and Identification number used for customs identification in the EU/UK context.
ECT	Estimated completion time, often used for operations, loading, discharge, or clearance milestones.
Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)	Computer-to-computer exchange of structured shipment or business data.
Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT)	United Nations EDI standard used for trade, transport, and administrative messages.
Emergency Bunker Surcharge (EBS)	Extra fuel surcharge imposed during exceptional or volatile bunker cost conditions.
Endorsement	Signature or notation transferring rights or adding instructions on a negotiable document or insurance policy.
Entry Summary Declaration (ENS)	Advance cargo security declaration lodged before goods enter certain customs territories; commonly written Entry Summary Declaration.
Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA)	Expected arrival date and time of a vessel, container, or shipment.
Estimated Time of Departure (ETD)	Expected departure date and time of a vessel or shipment.
Export Control Classification Number (ECCN)	U.S. export-control classification used to determine licensing requirements.
Export Declaration	Official export filing or declaration submitted to customs or export authorities.
Express Bill of Lading	Non-negotiable bill of lading allowing release without presentation of an original bill.
Export License	Government authorization required to export certain controlled goods or technology.
EXW	Ex Works Incoterm; seller makes goods available at its premises and buyer bears most costs and risks.
FAL	Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic convention or related port formalities documentation.
FC & S	Free of Capture and Seizure; marine insurance exclusion for warlike capture and seizure risks.
FI	Free In; loading costs are for the cargo interest rather than included in freight.
Full Interests Admitted (FIA)	Insurance wording acknowledging full insurable interest for the covered party.
Free In and Out (FIO)	Freight term where loading and discharge costs are not included in ocean freight.

Term	Definition
Free Out (FO)	Freight term where discharge cost is for the cargo interest, not the carrier.
Free In Out Stowed (FIOS)	Freight term excluding loading, discharge, and stowage from the carrier freight rate.
Free In Out Stowed and Trimmed (FIOST)	Freight term excluding loading, discharge, stowage, and trimming costs from the rate.
Free In / Liner Out (FILO)	Freight term where loading is for cargo account and discharge is on liner terms.
FOD ABS	Free of damage absolutely; insurance or contract wording excluding certain damage responsibility.
FAS	Free Alongside Ship Incoterm; seller delivers goods alongside the vessel at the named port.
FCA	Free Carrier Incoterm; seller delivers goods to the carrier or named place cleared for export.
Federal Maritime Commission (FMC)	U.S. agency regulating ocean transportation intermediaries and common carriers in U.S. trades.
International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA)	Global federation representing freight forwarders and logistics service providers.
FIATA Model Rules	FIATA framework of standard freight-forwarding terms and responsibilities.
FOB (...Named Port / Vessel)	Incoterm: seller delivers goods on board the vessel at the named port; risk transfers on board.
Forty-foot Equivalent Unit (FEU)	Container capacity unit equal to one 40-foot container.
Foul Bill of Lading	Bill of lading bearing clauses noting apparent damage, shortage, or defective packaging.
Free Trade Zone (FTZ)	Secured area where goods may be stored or processed with customs duties deferred under rules.
Freight All Kinds (FAK)	Rate structure applying one freight rate to multiple commodities.
Freight Collect	Freight charges payable at destination by consignee or other receiving party.
Freight Prepaid	Freight charges paid at origin before release or movement as agreed.
Full container load (FCL)	Shipment using a full ocean container, usually sealed and moved as one unit.
General Average (G/A)	Marine principle requiring parties to share extraordinary sacrifices or expenses made to save the voyage.
General Average Act (York-Antwerp Rules)	Intentional sacrifice or expenditure for common safety, adjusted under York-Antwerp Rules when applicable.
General Average Bond	Security signed by cargo interests agreeing to pay their general average contribution.
General Average Contribution	Cargo owner share of general average sacrifice or expense.
General Average Security	Guarantee, bond, or deposit required before cargo release after a general average event.
General Average Statement	Adjustment statement calculating general average losses and contributions.
General Cargo	Packaged or unitized cargo that is not bulk, liquid bulk, or specialized cargo.
General Rate Increase (GRI)	Carrier-announced increase to base ocean freight rates.
Hague Rules	International convention framework governing carrier liability under bills of lading.
Hague-Visby Rules	Amended Hague Rules with updated provisions for carrier liability and responsibilities.

Term	Definition
Hamburg Rules	UN convention establishing alternative rules for carriage of goods by sea.
High Cube Container (HC)	Container with extra height, commonly 9 feet 6 inches external height.
Harbor Maintenance Fee (HMF)	U.S. fee assessed on certain imports to support harbor maintenance.
Hatch Cover	Cover that closes a vessel hatch to protect cargo holds.
Hatchway	Opening in a vessel deck giving access to cargo holds.
Hazardous Materials (Hazmat)	Materials posing safety risks and subject to hazardous transport regulations.
Heavy-Lift Vessel	Vessel equipped or designed to carry exceptionally heavy or oversized cargo.
Home Port	Port where a vessel is registered or based.
Institute Cargo Clause (ICC)	Standard marine cargo insurance clauses defining covered risks and exclusions.
International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC)	Convention setting safety approval and inspection requirements for containers.
IMF/IWF	International monetary or financial surcharge reference used in some tariffs or contracts.
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	UN agency responsible for maritime safety, security, and pollution standards.
Import License	Government authorization required to import certain goods.
Importer	Party responsible for bringing goods into a country and meeting customs requirements.
Importer Security Filing (ISF / 10+2)	U.S. advance security filing required for ocean imports before vessel loading.
Incoterms	International commercial terms defining seller and buyer responsibilities for delivery, risk, and costs.
Inherent Vice	Loss or damage caused by the natural nature or defect of the goods themselves.
Inland Clearance Depot (ICD)	Inland facility authorized for customs clearance and cargo handling.
Inland Waterways Bill of Lading	Transport document covering carriage on inland waterways.
Insulated Container	Container with insulated walls used to reduce temperature variation without active refrigeration.
International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)	Association of major classification societies setting technical standards and guidance.
International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)	Global trade association representing shipowners and operators.
International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code)	International code for classification, packing, marking, documentation, and stowage of dangerous goods by sea.
International Organization for Standardization (ISO)	Organization that publishes standards, including standards for freight containers.
International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code)	Maritime security code for ships and port facilities.
Irrevocable Letter of Credit	Letter of credit that cannot be amended or canceled without consent of required parties.
Jettison	Intentional throwing overboard of cargo or equipment to protect vessel and voyage.
Jurisdiction	Legal authority or forum governing a dispute or transaction.
Keel	Main structural backbone of a vessel running along the bottom.

Term	Definition
Knot	Unit of speed equal to one nautical mile per hour.
Last Free Day	Final day a container or cargo can remain without demurrage, detention, or storage charges.
Less than Container Load (LCL)	Shipment that does not fill a container and is consolidated with other cargo.
Letter of Credit (L/C)	Bank undertaking to pay a seller when compliant documents are presented.
Letter of Indemnity (LOI)	Undertaking to compensate a party for acting on specified instructions or accepting certain risks.
Lighter	Small vessel or barge used to move cargo between ship and shore or within a harbor.
Liner Conference	Association of liner carriers historically coordinating rates and services in a trade lane.
Liner in Free out (LIFO)	Freight term where loading is on liner terms and discharge is for cargo account.
Liner Service	Regular scheduled ocean service between advertised ports.
Liner Shipping Company	Carrier operating scheduled services on established trade routes.
Liner Terms	Freight terms where certain loading and discharge costs are included in the liner rate.
Lloyd's Register of Shipping (LR)	Classification society providing vessel classification and technical assurance services.
Longitude	Geographic coordinate measuring east-west position.
Lump-Sum	Fixed total amount charged or paid regardless of exact quantity, subject to agreement.
Motor Vessel (M.V.)	Vessel powered by an engine, commonly used as a prefix before vessel names.
MAFI Trailer	Roll trailer used to move heavy or oversized cargo on roll-on/roll-off vessels or terminals.
Manifest	Detailed list of cargo, bills of lading, containers, and shipment data for a vessel or conveyance.
Marine Insurance Policy	Insurance contract covering cargo or maritime interests against covered risks.
Mate's Receipt	Receipt issued by vessel officer acknowledging cargo received on board, often exchanged for a bill of lading.
Merchandise Processing Fee (MPF)	U.S. Customs fee assessed on many formal import entries.
Merchant	Shipper, consignee, cargo owner, or other party with rights or obligations under the bill of lading.
Merchant Haulage	Inland movement arranged by the shipper, consignee, or forwarder rather than the ocean carrier.
Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)	Document describing hazards, handling, and emergency information for a product; now commonly SDS.
Minimum Quantity Commitment (MQC)	Minimum volume commitment in an ocean service contract or rate agreement.
Multi-Purpose Vessel	Vessel capable of carrying different types of cargo, including breakbulk, project, and containers.
Negotiated Rate Arrangement (NRA)	Written NVOCC rate arrangement with shipper under FMC rules.
Net Tonnage	Vessel measurement based on revenue-earning cargo spaces.
Net Weight	Weight of the goods excluding packaging or container tare weight.

Term	Definition
Non Vessel Operating Common Carrier (NVOCC)	Ocean transportation intermediary issuing its own bills of lading without operating vessels.
Notice of Abandonment	Formal notice that an insured party abandons cargo or property to the insurer after a loss.
Notify Address	Address of the party to be notified about arrival or release of cargo.
Notify Party	Party named on shipping documents to receive arrival or shipment notices.
Ocean Bill of Lading	Bill of lading covering carriage by sea.
Oil Bulk Ore Vessel (OBO)	Vessel designed to carry oil, bulk cargo, or ore in different voyages or holds.
On Board Bill of Lading	Bill of lading confirming goods have been loaded on board the vessel.
On Deck Bill of Lading	Bill of lading indicating cargo is carried on deck.
On carriage	Movement after the main ocean carriage from discharge port to final destination.
Open-Top Container	Container with removable top for cargo loaded from above or over-height cargo.
Order	Instruction or negotiable direction regarding delivery or transfer of goods or documents.
Order Bill of Lading	Negotiable bill of lading made out to order and transferable by endorsement.
Panamax Size	Vessel size designed to fit older Panama Canal lock dimensions.
Peak Season Surcharge (PSS)	Seasonal surcharge applied when demand and capacity pressure increase.
Perils of the Sea	Fortuitous maritime risks such as heavy weather, sinking, grounding, or collision.
Perishables	Goods subject to spoilage or deterioration, often requiring temperature control or fast handling.
Per Diem Charge	Daily charge for use of carrier equipment beyond agreed free time.
Place of Delivery	Location where carrier responsibility ends and cargo is delivered.
Place of Receipt	Location where carrier responsibility begins and cargo is received.
Port	Harbor or terminal area where vessels load, discharge, or call.
Port of Discharge	Port where cargo is unloaded from the ocean vessel.
Port of Loading	Port where cargo is loaded onto the ocean vessel.
Port Log	Record of vessel activities, port calls, events, and times.
Power of Attorney (POA)	Authorization allowing an agent or broker to act on behalf of a principal.
Pre-Carriage	Movement before the main ocean carriage from origin to port of loading.
Pre-Carrier	Carrier performing the pre-carriage movement before ocean transport.
Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI)	Inspection of goods before export, often for quality, quantity, or customs compliance.
Prepaid Freight	Freight paid at origin before shipment or delivery under agreed terms.
Principal	Party on whose behalf an agent acts, or the primary party responsible under a contract.
Protection and Indemnity Club (P & I Club)	Mutual insurance association covering shipowner third-party liabilities.
Quay	Dock or wharf structure where vessels berth for cargo operations.
Quotation	Offer of rates, charges, and terms for a shipment or service.

Term	Definition
Quotation Expiration Date	Date after which quoted rates or terms are no longer valid.
Received for Shipment Bill of Lading	Bill of lading showing cargo was received by carrier but not yet loaded on board.
Receiving Carrier	Carrier that first receives cargo under a through or intermodal movement.
Red Clause Letter of Credit	Letter of credit allowing advance payment to the seller before shipment against specified conditions.
Reefer Cargo	Temperature-controlled cargo requiring refrigeration or controlled atmosphere.
Reefer Container	Refrigerated container with machinery to control temperature.
Register Ton	Volume measurement of vessel capacity equal to 100 cubic feet.
Remitting Bank	Bank that sends collection documents to another bank for payment or acceptance.
Revocable Letter of Credit	Letter of credit that may be amended or canceled by the issuing bank; rarely used in modern trade.
Said to Contain (STC)	B/L notation indicating package contents are declared by shipper and not verified by carrier.
Salvage	Compensation or services related to saving vessel, cargo, or property from maritime peril.
Sea Waybill (SWB)	Non-negotiable sea transport document allowing delivery to the named consignee without original B/L presentation.
Segregation	Separation of incompatible cargo, especially dangerous goods, according to stowage rules.
Shipper	Party tendering goods for carriage, often the exporter or seller.
Shipper's Load and Count (SLC)	Notation that container loading and quantity count were performed by the shipper, not the carrier.
Shipping Documents	Documents supporting shipment, customs clearance, payment, and delivery.
Shipping Instructions	Instructions provided to carrier or forwarder for bill of lading and shipment handling.
Slot	Storage space allocated to a container on a vessel.
Special Drawing Rights (SDR)	International monetary unit used in conventions to express liability limits.
Stack	Group or pile of containers in a yard or on a vessel.
Stacking	Placing containers or cargo vertically or in organized piles.
Stackweight	Maximum allowable weight that may be stacked above or supported by a container or area.
Starboard	Right-hand side of a vessel when facing forward.
Stem	Forward-most part or bow structure of a vessel.
Stern	Rear part of a vessel.
Stevedore	Company or worker performing vessel loading and discharge operations.
Straight Bill of Lading	Non-negotiable bill of lading consigned directly to a named consignee.
Surcharge	Additional charge added to base freight for specific costs or conditions.
Sweeper	Extra vessel or sailing used to clear cargo backlogs.
Tallyman	Person who counts cargo during loading, discharge, or warehouse operations.

Term	Definition
Tank Container	Container tank used for liquids, gases, or certain dry bulk commodities.
Tanker	Vessel designed to carry liquid bulk cargo.
Tare Weight	Weight of empty packaging, equipment, or container.
Tare Weight of Container	Empty weight of a container excluding cargo.
Tariff	Published schedule of rates, charges, rules, and terms.
Through Bill of Lading	Bill of lading covering carriage from origin to final destination across multiple legs or modes.
Time Charter	Charter where a vessel is hired for a period of time.
Trade	Geographic lane or market in which ocean services operate.
Tramp Vessel	Vessel operating without a fixed schedule, usually chartered for specific voyages.
Transferable Letter of Credit	Letter of credit that allows the beneficiary to transfer rights to another beneficiary.
Transshipment	Transfer of cargo from one vessel or conveyance to another during the route.
Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (TEU)	Standard container capacity unit based on one 20-foot container.
Ultimate Consignee	Final party in the destination country for whom the goods are intended.
Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits (UCP)	ICC rules governing letters of credit used in international trade.
Value Added Tax Number (VAT Number)	Tax identification number used for VAT registration and transactions.
Value Surcharge	Charge based on cargo value or higher liability exposure.
Value-Added Services	Additional logistics services beyond basic transportation, such as labeling, kitting, or packing.
Value-Added Tax (VAT)	Consumption tax applied to goods and services in many countries.
Valued Bill of Lading	Bill of lading stating cargo value, which may affect carrier liability and charges.
Vessel Utilization	Extent to which vessel capacity is filled or used.
Voyage	Trip of a vessel between ports or along a service rotation.
Voyage Charter	Charter of a vessel for one or more specified voyages.
Voyage Number	Carrier-assigned number identifying a specific vessel sailing.
Wharf	Structure at a port where vessels berth and cargo is handled.
York / Antwerp Rules	International rules used to adjust and allocate general average contributions.