

GLOSARY	
A	
Air Waybill (AWB)	Air waybills are the freight documents associated with air shipments.
Airline Terminal Fee	Air shipments include an airline terminal fee, which is charged as a fee for handling the cargo.
Anti-dumping Duties (AD)	Anti-dumping duties is a type of product duties assessed by U.S. Customs.
Automated Export System (AES)	<p>The Automated Export System (AES) is the automated system for filing U.S. Shipper's Export Declarations. AES authorizes the electronic filing of export and manifest information directly to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.</p> <p>Due to electronic filing, AES has the capability to edit collected information immediately and correct any detected errors at the time of filing.</p> <p>AES is a nationwide system operational at all ports and for all methods of transportation. The system was designed to assure the compliance and enforcement</p>

	of laws relating to exports, improving trade statistics, reducing duplicate reporting, and improving customer service
Automated Manifest System (AMS)	The Automated Manifest System (AMS) is an electronic information transmission system operated by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.
B	
BAF (Bunker Adjustment Factor)	BAF accounts for vessel fuel and fluctuates based on the price of Brent oil
Bill of Lading (BOL or B/L)	A bill of lading is a shipping document that outlines the voyage of a shipment.
Blank Sailing	A blank sailing is a sailing that has been canceled by the carrier, which may mean one port is being skipped, or the entire string is canceled. Blank sailings happen for a couple of reasons.
Blind Shipment	A blind shipment is when the consignee of a shipment is unaware of who the shipper is.
Bobtail Fee	A bobtail fee is charged if the trucker drops off an FCL container at a warehouse and

	picks it up after it has been unloaded.
Bonded Goods	Bonded goods are goods where the customs duty hasn't been paid yet, so they remain in warehouses under customs supervision until the duty is paid.
Bonded Warehouse	A bonded warehouse is a customs-controlled warehouse where goods for which the duty has not been paid can be stored until the duty is paid.
Break Bulk	Break bulk is described as cargo that does not fit in standard shipping containers or cargo bins.
Bulk Cargo	Bulk cargo is a product that is shipped loosely and unpackaged.
C	
CAIN (Customs Assigned Importer Number)	A CAIN is a Customs Assigned Importer Number used for foreign importers.
CBM (Cubic Meter)	CBM is a measurement volume which you often see associated with air and LCL shipments
CBP (Customs and Border Protection)	CBP will examine a shipment's import documents and select shipments for

	examination.
CES (Centralized Examination Station)	A CES is where a shipment will be trucked if CBP has pulled it for inspection
CFS (Container Freight Station)	A container freight station is a warehouse that specializes in the consolidation and deconsolidation of cargo. A CFS will charge a fee.
CFS (Container Freight Station) Cut-off	A CFS cut-off is the date that an LCL shipment needs to be checked in the CFS for the shipment to make its sailing.
CFS (Container Freight Station) Fee	A container freight station (CFS) is where LCL cargo is taken for consolidation (at origin) and deconsolidation (at destination). The CFS charges a fee for this service, based on the volume of the cargo.
CTPAT	CTPAT is the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism. CTPAT certification confers several benefits for parties along the supply chain, including fewer Customs exams and access to the CTPAT portal.
CY (Container Yard) Cutoff	Container yards have cutoff date that a container must be gated in by in order to

	be loaded onto the scheduled vessel.
Cargo Insurance	Cargo insurance is highly recommended, because any number of pitfalls might befall your shipment on its journey.
Cargo Ready Date (CRD)	The cargo ready date is the day the cargo is expected to be available.
Carrier	The carrier is the party who transports the cargo.
Cartage	Cartage is a type of trucking, usually for LCL shipments.
Chassis	A chassis is a piece of trucking equipment used for trucking FCL shipments
Chassis Fee	A chassis is attached to a truck, and used to transport a container.
Chassis Pool	Chassis are stored at chassis pools at ocean ports, rail ports, and other locations.
Chassis Split	A chassis split fee is charged if the trucker has to make an additional trip to pick up a chassis, from a separate location.
Chinese New Year (CNY)	Chinese New Year is the largest Chinese celebration of the year, during which

	celebration of the year, during which factories are closed or operated at diminished capacity.
Clean Truck Fee	A Clean Truck Fee is assessed by the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.
Co-Loader	A co-loader consolidates LCL shipments.
Commerce Control List (CCL)	The Commerce Control List (CCL) is a list of categories and product groups used to help determine if an export license is needed for U.S. exports.
Commercial Invoice	A Commercial Invoice is a document used for Customs declaration, along with the Packing List
Common Carrier	A common carrier is a company that offers service to the general public.
Compliance Assessment	A compliance assessment is an analysis or audit of a company's customs transactions.
Consignee	The consignee will be named on the bill of lading, and is the party to whom ownership of the goods will transfer at the cargo's destination.
Consolidation	

	Consolidation is the act of combining LCL shipments into a truck or container.
Container	A container is a steel receptacle using for moving goods.
Container Yard (CY)	A container yard (CY) is where ocean containers are stored before and after a sailing, and where carriers store empty containers.
Continuous Customs Bond	A customs bond is required to import goods into the United States, as a form of insurance to protect the U.S. Treasury. A continuous customs bond will cover all of your import shipments for one year.
Contract of Carriage	A contract of carriage is a negotiated contract between the carrier and shipper for the transportation of cargo.
Countervailing Duties	Countervailing duties are applied to foreign goods in the U.S. that are manufactured with foreign subsidies
Country of Origin	Country of origin is the determination for trade purposes of where your goods are manufactured or produced.

Customs Bond	A customs bond, or import bond, is a legal document verifying all required importing fees, duties, and taxes have been paid.
Customs Broker	A customs broker is an agent who assists importers and exporters in preparing documents for clearing goods through customs.
Customs Clearance	Customs clearance is the governmental authorization necessary for a good to enter or exit the borders of a specific country.
Customs Entry	Customs entry is a declaration of the kind, amount, and value of goods being taken in or out of a country, for purposes of customs clearance
Customs Exam	Your shipment may be selected for a customs exam upon import into the U.S..
Customs Exam Fee	If your products are pulled for a U.S. Customs exam, you are liable for any applicable fees. These can run from \$80 to more than \$1,000, depending on the type of inspection performed.
D	
Declared Value Coverage	

	<p>Declared value coverage is not insurance, it raises the carrier's financial liability. See below for more details, and for the advantages of cargo insurance vs. declared value coverage.</p>
Deconsolidation	<p>Deconsolidation is the act of separating LCL shipments.</p>
Delivery Labor Fee	<p>A trucker may charge a delivery labor fee if they have to help unload cargo at the warehouse (or other destination).</p>
Delivery Order	<p>A delivery order is how Flexport communicates pickup and shipment details to the trucker.</p>
Demurrage	<p>Demurrage fees are charged if your container has not been picked up from the port before the Last Free Day.</p>
Detention	<p>Detention, also known as per diem, is a fee charged for the extra days a container is away from port.</p>
Devanning	<p>Devanning is a logistics term that means "unloading cargo from a container."</p>
Disbursement Service Fee	<p>A disbursement fee is charged to clients</p>

	<p>who do not pay duties and taxes directly to customs, or other government authorities, and request that an agent or forwarder does so on their behalf.</p>
Double Blind Shipment	<p>A double blind shipment is when the shipper is unaware of where a shipment will be delivered to and the consignee is unaware of where the shipment is coming from.</p>
Drayage	<p>Drayage is how a full container is trucked from a port to a nearby warehouse.</p>
Drop	<p>A drop is one option for delivery of FCL shipments.</p>
Drop Fee	<p>A drop fee is charged by the trucker to drop off an FCL container at the warehouse and pick it up after it has been unloaded. This is also called a bobtail fee.</p>
Drop and Pick	<p>A drop and pick is a trucking delivery option.</p>
Dry Run	<p>A dry run is a trucking term for when the trucker cannot complete pickup or delivery.</p>
Dry Van Shipping	

	Dry van shipping is for cargo that doesn't need to be temperature-controlled or transported in a flatbed trailer.
Duty	A duty is an indirect tax on the value of an imported or exported product.
Duty Drawback	Duty drawback, or Drawback, is an export incentive program that allows U.S. importers, exporters, and manufacturers to recover, in part or in whole, certain duties, taxes, and fees paid on imported merchandise or domestically produced flavoring extracts, medicinal or toilet preparations, bottled distilled spirits and wines
E	
EBS (Emergency Bunker Surcharge)	Carriers implement an EBS once fuel costs have risen so high that they cut into carriers' profits.
EIN (Employer Identification Number)	An EIN is used by the U.S. federal government to identify business entities.
ELD (Electronic Logging Device)	An EIN is used by the U.S. federal government to identify business entities.
EORI (Economic Operator Registration and Identification)	An EORI number is required to ship to the

	EU.
EXW (Ex Works)	EXW is an incoterm that assigns the least amount of responsibility to the supplier.
Export Control Classification Number (ECCN)	An Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) is a five-character alphanumeric key used in the Commerce Control List (CCL) to classify U.S. exports.
Export Declaration	An export declaration is a document submitted at the time of export at the export port.
Export License	An export license grants someone the right to conduct an export transaction.
Express Bill of Lading	An express bill of lading is a type of bill of lading that doesn't require the cargo to be "released."
F	
FBA (Fulfillment by Amazon)	FBA is an Amazon service that will store and ship your products for you.
FBA ID	FBA IDs are assigned to every shipment going to a different FBA warehouse.
FCA (Free Carrier)	FCA is an incoterm suitable for

	containerized ocean shipments.
FCL (Full Container Load)	A FCL container is one person's shipment that takes up a full container, as opposed to LCL.
FDA (Food and Drug Administration)	The FDA-regulated products will be inspected by the FDA at Customs, and may be held by the FDA for review.
FEU (Forty-foot Equivalent Unit)	An FEU is a unit of shipment volume.
FOB (Free on Board)	FOB is an incoterm, which as of Incoterms® 2010 (and confirmed by Incoterms® 2020), is only suitable for ocean shipments that will be delivered straight to the vessel.
FTA (Free Trade Agreement)	An FTA (Free Trade Agreement) is an agreement between two or more countries that minimizes barriers to and increases trade between the participating countries.
FTL (Full Truckload)	An FTL is a type of trucking used for shipments that can fill an entire truck.
Federal Maritime Commission (FMC)	The FMC (Federal Maritime Commission) is the U.S. agency responsible for the regulation of ocean transportation.

First Sale Valuation	First sale valuation is a method of importing products to
Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ)	A Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) is a special economic zone in which merchandise is not subject to duties or other taxes.
Forklift	A forklift is used to move shipments in warehouses.
Fuel Surcharge (FSC)	Trucking companies charge a fuel surcharge fee in order to protect themselves from the volatility of fuel prices.
G	
GRI (General Rate Increase)	A GRI is a general rate increase that carriers can apply to their ocean freight rates.
Gating In	Gating in for containers means checking in at the port of origin.
General Average	General Average is declared in the aftermath of a maritime catastrophe and is very costly for shippers without cargo insurance.
General Order	General Order is a status given to cargo

	that is being held up at Customs due to improper documentation or other issues with clearing.
Golden Week	Golden Week is a Chinese holiday in October.
H	
HC (High Cube) Container	A HC container is taller than a standard container, and can fit more cargo.
HS / HTS Codes	HS and HTS codes are for Customs product classification.
Harbor Maintenance Fee (HMF)	The Harbor Maintenance Fee (HMF) is calculated at 0.125% of the cargo value, as declared on the commercial invoice.
Hazmat	Hazmat means hazardous materials, and need to be carefully shipped.
I	
ISF (Importer Security Filing)	An Importer Security Filing (ISF) documents 12 details about a shipment being imported to the United States via ocean. It is required by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.
ISPS Code (International Ship and Port Facility Security Code)	ISPS Code is a safety measure that incurs a fee included in freight charges.

Importer of Record	The importer of record is responsible for Customs documentation and payment.
Incoterms®	Incoterms® are an agreement between the seller and the buyer, defining who arranges for the payment and handling of goods.
Inherent Vice	Inherent vice is an exclusion found in most cargo insurance policies to account for a defect or inherent characteristic in the nature of the product.
Inside Delivery Fee	The trucker may charge this fee if the shipment's delivery requires some form of installation, or if the trucker is required to go inside the delivery location.
Intensive Exam	The Customs Intensive exam is the most thorough Customs exam.
International Roadcheck	International Roadcheck is the world's largest targeted enforcement program for commercial motor vehicles. See below for more details and how the program may affect your shipments.
J	
Jones Act	The Jones Act prohibits any non-US ship

	from participating in US trade lanes (including Puerto Rico).
K	
Known Shipper	Known shipper is a preferred status for companies shipping via air, and a necessary status to ship via passenger planes taking off from the US.
L	
LCL (Less than Container Load)	LCL is a mode of shipping via ocean, and is recommended if your shipment isn't large enough to fill a container.
LTL (Less than Truckload)	LTL is used for smaller shipments that don't fill up a truck on their own.
Last Free Day	The last free day is the last day of free storage time. See below for general guidance on the average amount of free storage time per transportation mode.
Letter of Indemnity (LOI)	A Letter of Indemnity (LOI) is a document provided by the shipper stating that the shipper will take responsibility for any harm or loss caused by a breach of contract.
Liftgate	A liftgate is attached to the back of a truck to help with unloading.

Liftgate Fee	A liftgate is used for delivery destinations that do not have a loading dock. Truckers typically charge a fee for this service.
Live Unload	A live unload is trucking term, meaning that the trucker will wait for the container to be unloaded, instead of doing a drop.
M	
MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet)	An MSDS will be required for all dangerous, or even just potentially dangerous, shipments. The supplier is responsible for providing all hazmat documentation.
Merchandise Processing Fee (MPF)	The Merchandise Processing Fee (MPF) is a U.S. Customs charge assessed for most imports into the United States. The MPF is charged at 0.3464% of the entered value declared on the commercial invoice, with a minimum of \$27.23, and a maximum of \$528.33 per entry.
N	
Negotiated Rate Arrangement (NRA)	A Negotiated Rate Arrangement (NRA) is a document regulated by the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC). It ensures that all ocean freight rates are documented

	and accepted before the cargo is loaded onto the vessel.
Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier (NVOCC)	A Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier (NVOCC) is an ocean carrier that transports goods under its own House Bill of Lading, or equivalent documentation, without operating ocean transportation vessels.
Notify Party	Notify party is any party notified with shipment information by a carrier upon the arrival of cargo at its destination.
O	
Origin Charge	Origin charges will apply for every shipment, but who pays for them depends on the incoterm.
Origin Engineering	Origin engineering is the relocation of part of a product's manufacturing from one country to another country to avoid unfavorable trade restrictions, such as higher duty rates or quotas.
Original Bill of Lading (OBL)	An original bill of lading is a shipping document that serves as the title of the cargo and a shipment receipt.

P	
PGA (Partner Government Agency)	A PGA is a division of the U.S. government that regulates certain products and oversees their entry into the U.S.
POA (Power of Attorney)	The importer of record must sign a POA to give their customs agent the ability to move a shipment and clear it through customs.
PSS (Peak Season Surcharge)	PSS is a fluctuating surcharge that carriers may apply during times of high demand.
Packing List (PL)	A Packing List is a document used for Customs declaration. Accurate documentation may help avoid a Customs exam.
Pallet	Cartons are stacked on pallets to make cargo more secure and to make unloading easier.
Pallet Exchange Fee	A pallet exchange fee is charged if the trucker does not bring pallets to exchange when they pick up the cargo.
Per Diem Charge	Per diem, or detention, is charged for each day past the number of "free" days that a container is away from port.

Pier Pass Fee	The Pier Pass traffic mitigation fee is charged if your shipment is unloaded at the Port of Los Angeles/Long Beach during peak hours. It's part of the port's effort to reduce traffic congestion in the region, by incentivizing pickup during off-peak hours.
Power of Attorney	Power of attorney, in the context of customs clearance, is the authorization required to be given to the customs broker on behalf of the importer or exporter.
Pre-Pull	A pre-pull is when an ocean container is picked up from the port and stored at the trucker's yard, instead of being immediately delivered. A pre-pull may be used to help avoid demurrage fees.
Q	
Quality Control (QC)	Quality control will help ensure that your products are meeting your anticipated standards.
R	
Related Parties	Related parties are relationships that may affect the declared import value to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Residential Delivery Fee	A trucker may charge a residential delivery fee if delivering to a residential fee. Other costs may also be associated with a residential delivery.
Rolled Cargo	Rolled cargo is cargo that could not be loaded onto the vessel it was scheduled to sail on because that vessel ran out of capacity. See below for information on what happens to your rolled cargo and how you can lessen the chances of your cargo being rolled.
Rules of Origin	Rules of origin are legal standards that determine how to treat goods from a tariff standpoint based on their country of origin.
S	
Ship From Address (Amazon)	Amazon Seller Central will request a Ship From address, and this address will not be your supplier's address.
Shipper's Letter of Instruction (SLI)	An SLI is a necessary document for exporting goods from the U.S
Shipping Order (SO)	A Shipping Order is the document that confirms space for a shipment has been booked on a vessel.

Special Delivery Fee	A special delivery fee is charged by a trucker for a delivery outside of their normal service parameters, such as an after-hours delivery or delivery to a destination they don't typically service.
Split Shipment	When your air shipment is split, your cargo does not arrive on a single flight, but is instead distributed among two or more flights. This is more likely to happen with a large shipment.
Stop Off Fee	A stop off fee may be charged if your shipment is split between two delivery locations.
Storage Charges	Storage charges may apply to your shipment even if you don't plan on putting your shipment into storag
Stuffing	Stuffing a container in logistics means to load a container.
T	
TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit)	A TEU is a measurement of shipment volume.
Tail Gate Exam	A Tail Gate Exam is the next step up from

	an X-ray exam.
Tariff Engineering	Tariff engineering is the modification a new or existing product so as to pay the lowest possible duty rate on the product.
Trade Remedy	Trade remedies are tactics such as imposing additional duties, quotas, prohibitions on imports or other methods that government organizations use to counteract unfair trade practices.
Transloading	Transloading is the process of moving a shipment from one mode of transport to another. See below for why your shipment might be transloaded.
Transtainer	A transtainer is a large gantry crane, sometimes called an RTG, used to load, unload, or stack containers.
Trucking Wait Fee	A trucking wait fee is typically charged by a truck driver if they have to wait more than 1-2 hours while cargo is being unloaded. This is a prorated hourly charge.
U	
ULD (Unit Load Device)	ULDs contain airfreight cargo.

Ultimate Consignee	ULDs contain airfreight cargo.
V	
VAT (Value Added Tax) Number	A VAT number is required to import into the EU.
W	
Wharfage	Wharfage is the fee charged for use of the wharf to unload a vessel.
What is Chargeable Weight?	Chargeable weight is what the airline uses to determine the cost of your shipment. It may be either volumetric weight or gross weight, whichever is greater.
X	
X-Ray Exam	A Customs X-ray exam is the least intensive Customs exams.
Y	
Yard Storage	Yard storage is charged by the trucker if a container is stored at the trucker's yard, instead of a terminal.
Z	
Zone Rate	A zone rate is a type of freight rate used to determine cost by moving through geographic areas.
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