

Terms & Abbreviations

ACBPS

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service manages the security and integrity of Australia's borders. It works closely with other government and international agencies, in particular the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Department of Defence, to detect and deter unlawful movement of goods and people across the border.

Agent

A person authorized to transact business for and in the name of another person or company.

AQIS

Australian Quarantine Inspection Service. A government body protecting Australia from contaminated fauna and flora. Now DAFF Biosecurity.

B/L

Bill of Lading – acts as a receipt for the cargo and contains the terms of the contract of carriage and is a document of title to the goods.

Bonded Warehouse

A place of security approved by the custom authorities for the deposit, keeping and securing of goods liable to excise duty, without payment of this duty.

Box

A colloquial name for a shipping container.

Break Bulk

Goods shipped loose in the vessels hold and not in containers.

CAN

Customs Authority Number-It's the number given by customs upon the clearance of export goods.

Cartage

Refers to the intra-city haulage of goods on trucks.

Certificate of Origin

A document certifying the country of origin of goods which is normally issued or signed by a Chamber of Commerce or Embassy

Commercial Invoice

Represents a complete record of a transaction between exporter and importer with regard to the goods sold. Also reports the content of the shipment and serves as the basis for all other documents about the shipment.

CRN

Customs Register Number – is the number allocated by customs to an export, agent or freight forwarder for use when exporting goods on the same shipment from more than one shipper.

Cut Off Date

The last date for which goods can be accepted for a nominated vessel's sailing.

Consignee (CNEE)

The party to whom a consignment is dispatched, having legal title to the goods.

Consignor (CNOR)

The sender of the goods

Consignment Note

A document that describes a consignment moving from one point to another, also known as advice or dispatch note or Con note.

DAFF Biosecurity

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) aims to protect and enhance the sustainability, profitability and competitiveness of Australia's agriculture, food, fisheries and forestry industries.

Demurrage

A charge raised for detaining cargo, containers or trailers for a longer period than provided for in the tariff.

EDO

Electronic Delivery Order - a document given to the party surrendering the original Bill of Lading, authorizing them to take delivery of the goods.

Drawback

Repayment of a duty upon re-exportation of goods previously imported.

Duty

Is a particular percentage (depending on commodity) of the FOB value, which is paid to the government. The FOB value is the cost of the goods plus any other charges to get those goods on to a vessel.

ETA

Estimated Time of Arrival – indicates the estimation of the date/hour, the carrier believes the cargo, vessel or container will arrive at a nominated point/port.

ETD

Estimated Time of Departure – see above.

FAK

Freight all kinds – refers to full container loads of mixed shipments for different consignees.

FCL

Full Container Load – an arrangement whereby the shipper utilises all the space in a container which he packs himself.

FCX

Full container shipments from multiple suppliers for the one consignee.

Flat Rack

Container bottom specifically for heavy lifts and overwidth cargoes. Noncontainerisable

cargo can be accommodated on several flats positioned side by side.

Freight

The amount of money payable for the carriage of goods. Sometimes erroneously used to describe the goods, which are more correctly described as “cargo” in marine transportation.

GP

General Purpose – A closed steel container for the carriage of all types of general, non-hazardous cargo. 20' & 40' available in GP.

GST

Goods and Service Tax – worked out as 10% of the CIF value + the duty amount. The CIF value is the cost of goods + marine insurance + freight amount (cost to get cargo to destination port) + duty.

Hazchem Code

Hazardous chemical code placed on tankers carrying dangerous chemicals.

Hi-Cube

Is a container which is slightly (bigger) higher than a General Purpose container. Available in both 20' & 40'.

House Bill of Lading

Issued by a freight forwarder or consolidator covering a single shipment containing the names, addresses and specific description of the goods shipped.

ICC

International Chamber of Commerce.

IMDG Code

International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code – contains the IMO recommendations for the carriage of dangerous goods by sea. The form needed for export of this sort of cargo is known as an MO41 and is available from a freight forwarder. Paperwork for imported dangerous goods comes from the supplier.

IMO

International Maritime Organisation – a UN body charges with the duty of making safety and anti-pollution conventions and recommendations concerning sea transport.

Incoterms

A list of standard terms stated by the ICC for all foreign trade contracts, which lists the respective responsibilities of the buyer and seller.

L/C

Letter of Credit – a document in which the terms of documentary credit transactions are set out.

LCL

Less than Container Load – when a parcel is too small to fill a container, it is grouped by the carrier at a 'CFS' depot, with other compatible cargo, for the same destination.

Manifest

List of goods or passengers on a vessel / aircraft

Notify Party

The party to whom the cargo arrival notice is sent.

OOG

Out Of Gauge – goods whose dimensions exceed those of the container in which they are packed.

Packing List

Document required by the buyer and Customs, indicating content being shipped, or contents of each package.

Packing Declaration

Document required by Aqis which states how the shipment has been packed with regards to straw, timber and bark. The packing declaration must be completed in full including a numerical link i.e. container or bill number and issued on supplier's own letterhead to be accepted by quarantine.

POD

Place of Discharge – the place where the goods are discharged and carriers liability ends. It can also mean;
Proof of Delivery – a signed receipt acknowledging delivery.

PRA

Pre Receival Advice - It's the electronic lodgment to the wharf for notification of a container coming in for export.

RO/RO

Roll On Roll Off – A vessel onto which goods can be driven, via ramp.

Reefer

A refrigerated container.

Shipper

The person who tenders the goods for carriage. Not to be confused with the party issuing the bill of lading or the vessel operator, who is the carrier.

TEU

Twenty-Foot Equivalent Unit – ie. 1 x 20ft = 1 TEU, 1 x 40ft = 2 TEU.

Transship

When cargo is discharged from one ship and loaded onto another in order to reach a port of no direct service or as a cheaper alternative to the direct service.

Waybill

A bill of lading that acts as receipt for the goods and evidence of the contract for carriage. A waybill is a bill of lading that is not a document and can be defined as follows: - a receipt for goods; is evidence of the contract; is a nonnegotiable document.

Under a waybill, delivery will be effected to a nominated consignee upon proof of identity. As a title it presents a personal contract between the shipper and the carrier only. There is (at present) no mandatory law or convention and the parties have absolute freedom of contract.