**Shipping Terms**

1. **AIS** - The Automatic Identification System (AIS) is an automated, autonomous tracking system which is extensively used in the shipping world for the exchange of navigational information.
2. **Freight forwarder** - A freight forwarder, is a person or a company who, for a fee, organizes shipments for the shipper (an individual/party that arranges an item for shipment) by liaising with carriers (an individual/party that transports goods). A forwarder does not move the goods but acts as an agent in the shipping network.
3. **Carrier** - A carrier is an entity responsible for delivering the products to the buyer or consignee.
4. **voyage -** A long journey to a foreign or distant place, especially by sea**.**
5. **service lane** - service lanes connect numerous shipping hubs. These connections create routes shippers regularly use to transport goods.
6. **carrier schedule / vessel schedule** - An ocean carrier’s timetable of sailings, which contains details such as the names of the vessels, their scheduled days and times of departure/arrival, transit times, and the ports at which they are planned to call.
7. **Shipper** - The shipper is the supplier in a commerce transaction. For instance, a shipper may be the individual who sends your business key components that you incorporate into your production processes. Traditionally, shippers are responsible for preparing your goods for shipment and packing them in an approved container.
8. **Standard Carrier Alpha Code** - The Standard Carrier Alpha Code (SCAC) is a privately controlled US code used to identify vessel operating common carriers (VOCC).
9. **Vessel IMO** - The IMO ship identification number is a unique ship identifier; the IMO company and registered owner identification number is used to identify uniquely each company and/or registered owner
10. **Port of Loading** - A port or location where cargo is loaded onto a ship, protected, and prepared for transit is called a port of loading. POL is another name for the port of departure.
11. **Port of Discharge** - A port of discharge is the site where a ship unloads all of its cargo or only a portion of it. The packages are then sent to their different consignees.
12. **Bill of Lading (BL) Number** - A bill of lading (sometimes abbreviated as B/L or BOL) is a document issued by a carrier (or their agent) to acknowledge receipt of cargo for shipment.
13. **Master BL** - A Master Bill of Lading (MBL) is issued by the carrier (ship owner or operator) and represents the contract of carriage between the shipper and the carrier. It's important to note that the cargo shipper will only receive a Master Bill of Lading if they are working directly with a mainline carrier or a freight forwarder.
14. **House BL** - A House Bill of Lading (HBL) is a BOL created by an Ocean Transport Intermediary (OTI), such as a freight forwarder or non-vessel operating company (NVOCC), and is issued to the supplier once the cargo has been received.  The HBL is an essential document in shipping, as it's the formal acknowledgment of the receipt of goods being shipped.
15. **Transshipment Port** – Transshipment Port is an intermediate destination, before finally shipping to another destination.
16. **ATA** - Actual time of arrival in UTC.
17. **ATD** - Actual time of departure in UTC.
18. **ETD** - Estimate time of departure in UTC.
19. **ETA** - Estimate time of Arrival in UTC.