Physically, objects in a three-system landscape are transported in three steps:

1. All objects in a (transportable) transport request, that are to be released, are exported by being copied from the database of the source system to the transport directory.
2. These objects are imported into the database of the quality assurance system. Here, they are tested and validated.
3. After testing and verification, the objects can be imported into the database of the production system.

Note:
The terms “export” and “import” are meant as *copy*, not as *move*.

At the end of the process, the objects exist four times: in the database of DEV, QAS and PRD, and in the transport directory.

TMS: Concepts and Terminology

Depending on the size of an organization and the scope of its SAP implementation, there may be many different individuals carrying out customizing and development projects. Some will be involved in customizing specific application areas, others may be involved in the development of new ABAP programs, others in the QA testing and acceptance of changes. There can be hundreds or even thousands of changes that have to be transported through the SAP systems in the landscape. The transport of these changes will be done using the functions of the TMS.

The concepts behind TMS are as follows:

- Centralized configuration of Change and Transport System (CTS) for all SAP systems.
- Centralized management of transport requests, especially the import process.
- Transport strategy based on predefined transport routes.

The purpose of the TMS, accessed via transaction `STMS`, is to centrally control the propagation of changes through the SAP system landscape based on predefined paths. This is designed to ensure the consistency of the SAP repository and the contents of the customizing tables in all SAP systems in the landscape. All necessary activities can be done from within the SAP system (using the SAP authorization concept) and there is no need to manually execute scripts at operating system level.

With TMS you are able to perform the following activities:

- Define an SAP system's role within an SAP system landscape or transport domain.
- Configure the transport routes, using either an editor or delivered standard configuration settings.
- Configure the transport tool program's (*tp*) parameter profile.
- Display the import queues of all SAP systems in the transport domain.
- Define quality assurance and acceptance procedures in the QA system.
- Schedule the import of transport requests in an import queue.
- Perform transports between SAP systems without a common transport directory.