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**FREIGHT FORWARDER**

**Definition:**

* Firm specializing in arranging storage and shipping of merchandise on behalf of its shippers. It usually provides a full range of services including: tracking inland transportation, preparation of shipping and export documents, warehousing, booking cargo space, negotiating freight charges, freight consolidation, cargo insurance, and filing of insurance claims. Freight forwarders usually ship under their own bills of lading or air waybills (called house bill of lading or house air waybill) and their agents or associates at the destination (overseas freight forwarders) provide document delivery, deconsolidation, and freight collection services. Also called forwarder.
* A company that arranges your importing and exporting of goods.
* Act as an intermediary between a shipper and various transportation services such as ocean shipping on cargo ships, trucking, expedited shipping by air freight, and moving goods by rail.
* Acts as the exporter’s shipping agent.

**Advantages or Main Task:**

* Provides logistic ideas as a partner to their exporter or importer client.
* Involves much documentation and regulations that can vary from country to country.
* Handles ancillary services that are part of the international shipping business
  + Insurance
  + Custom documentations
* Provides to consolidators as well as individual shippers
  + Non-vessel operating common carrier documentation
  + Bills of lading
  + Warehousing
  + Risk assessment and management
  + Methods of international payment
* Insists on personal communication and great customer service

Source: <https://www.universalcargo.com/what-does-a-freight-forwarder-do-do-you-need-one/>

**Process:**

* First Stage – involves transporting your goods from your warehouse to a designated warehouse, sometimes owned or leased by the freight forwarding firm. (Export Haulage)
* Second Stage – involves receiving the goods and checking them in to ensure every item was transported without incident.
* Third Stage – requires the freight forwarder to submit documents to customs agents who must sign off on allowing the goods to leave their country of origin.
* Fourth Stage – involves the process of having the items received. Sometimes countries don’t offer customs agents to receive the items. Instead, the freight forwarding firm itself might be responsible for it.

After the destination country signs off on allowing your goods into their country, all paperwork is forward to the destination, who prepares to receive the goods when they arrive. This stage might require payment in addition to the transfer of paperwork and documentation.

Source: http://www.locglobal.com/freight-forwarding-process/

***Definitions:***

* **Brokerage** firms are generally subject to regulations based on the type of brokerage and jurisdictions in which they operate.
* **Forwarders** are person or organization that supervises the dispatch and delivery of goods, especially by making banking and insurance arrangements and completing required documents.

***Other Terms:***

**Bill of Lading:**

* Bill of Lading (B/L or BoL) – most common and important documents in the shipping and logistics industry. A legal transport document issued by a carrier to a shipper.

**Roles:**

* Evidence of Contract of Carriage – details of the amount, type and destination (and even sometimes the condition) of the shipped freight.
* Receipt – that the goods have been properly loaded onto the transforming vessel.
* Title of Goods – often requires the carrier to turn over the goods to the consignee (receiving party) noted on the BoL.

**What’s on Bill of Lading?**

* Carrier name and a signature from the carrier, the ship’s master, or a legal representative of either these parties.
* Date and indication of goods being loaded onto a vessel**.**
* Notation of the port of loading and the port of destination.
* Terms and conditions of carriage or a reference to these conditions listed in another document.
* Detailed description of the goods being shipped (value, count, weight, size, markings/numbers, etc).
* Name of the consignee
* Any special instructions for shipping

Source: https://www.shiplilly.com/blog/beginners-guide-bill-of-lading/