Reference terms:

1. **MBL**: MBL stands for Master Bill of Lading. MBL is a receipt that can cover multiple shipments that are consolidated into a larger cargo load. The MBL is issued by the carrier to the shipper or freight forwarder, and it represents the contract of carriage between the carrier and the shipper. The carrier is the only company that can issue a BL.
2. **HBL**: HBL stands for House Bill of Lading. It’s a receipt for a single shipment that acts as a contract between the shipper and the freight forwarder or Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier (NVOCC). The HBL is usually issued by the freight forwarder or NVOCC to the seller of the goods.
3. **MBL Number**: A Master Bill of Lading (MBL) number is a unique reference number that is assigned to a shipment by a carrier or freight forwarder. The format of an MBL number varies by carrier line, but most shipping lines use a format of SCAC + master bill of lading number. If a bill of lading number does not follow this format, it may be a House Bill of Lading (HB/L) number.

**Bill of lading number formatting (MBL No.):**Below, you can find generic examples of each supported carrier's known master bill of lading format as of January 2024 based on what is acceptable via that carrier's own tracking webpage. This may not be the source of truth indefinitely, but these are the trends that we have observed based on the month and year previously mentioned.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Carrier | Carrier Code | MBL Formatting | Example |
| Australia National Line | ANNU | 3 letters + 7 numbers | ABC1234567 |
| APL | APLU | 3 letters + 7 numbers | ABC1234567 |
| CMA CGM | CMDU | 3 letters + 7 numbers | ABC1234567 |
| ONE Line | ONEY | 12 characters (3 letters + 9 numbers, or 4 letters + 8 numbers) | ABC123456789, or ABCD12345678 |

1. HBL Number (**HBL No.**): A House Bill of Lading (HBL) number is a number that identifies a bill of lading issued by a freight forwarder or non-vessel operating common carrier (NVOCC) to a shipper. The HBL is a crucial document in shipping, as it serves as a receipt for goods being shipped and a contractual agreement between the shipper and the freight forwarder or NVOCC.  
    Typically it’s a 10 alpha-numeric characters. For example, an AWS B/L number might look like AWSL123456.
2. Booking Number (Booking No.): A booking number is a unique reference number that's assigned to a space reservation by a carrier or their agent. It's usually included on the bill of lading, or BOL, document. The BOL number is a unique identifier for a shipment, and it's used to track and manage cargo. A sample bill of lading booking number may look like BCO12345678, where "BCO" could be the shipping line's initials and "12345678" is the unique alphanumeric sequence for that booking.
3. Carrier Booking Number (Carrier Bkg. Bo.): A shipping booking number is a unique identifier for a shipment or reservation that's assigned by a freight forwarder or shipping company. The format and structure of a booking number can vary depending on the logistics provider or carrier. Here are some examples of shipping booking numbers: BCO12345678. In this example, "BCO" could be the initials of the carrier or shipping line, and "12345678" is the unique alphanumeric sequence for the booking. 5AJ73850This booking number could indicate that the shipment was made by "AE" (Abu Dhabi) at their office in "5" (Hong Kong)
4. ITN Number (ITN No.): An Internal Transaction Number (ITN) is a number generated by the Automated Export System (AES) to confirm that an Electronic Export Information (EEI) was accepted and is on file in the AES. An example of an ITN is X20190308366903, which would be the ITN for a shipment accepted on March 8, 2019.
5. Carrier Name: The carrier’s name is listed on a bill of lading (BL), which is a legal document that details the parties involved in a shipment and acts as a contract between the carrier and shipper:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Party** | **Description** |
| Carrier | The party that transports the goods, such as a shipping line, airline, or truck line |
| Shipper | The owner of the goods who contracts the carrier to transport them |
| Consignee | The party that receives the shipment at the destination listed on the BL |

The carrier is the only company that can issue a BL. The BL must be signed by an authorized representative from each party involved.  
example Pacific International Lines,X-press Feeders,Yang Ming Marine Transport Corporation

1. Co-Loader:

A co-loader is a third-party logistics service provider that combines multiple shipments into a single container or vessel for transportation. Co-loading is often used to reduce shipping costs and improve efficiency in the freight industry.

Co-loading is especially important for Less than Container Load (LCL) shipments, where individual shipments are too small to fill an entire container. Co-loaders can provide several benefits, including:  
Cost efficiency: Co-loading reduces shipping costs by combining multiple shipments.   
Increased reliability: Co-loaders ensure that cargo is properly handled and consolidated.  
Time savings: Co-loading streamlines the shipping process

1. Certificate of Origin (CO): A Certificate of Origin is a shipping document that details the origin of goods being shipped, including the country of import and export.
2. Vessel: A vessel in shipping is a large boat or ship that transports cargo, passengers, or both across water. Vessels are a vital part of global commerce and the supply chain, and can include:   
   Cargo ships: Transport large and heavy items, such as bulk commodities like oil and grains, or vehicles and machinery   
   Container ships: Made up of holds with cell guides that allow containers to slot into place   
   Oil tankers: Transport oil   
   Passenger ships: Transport people   
   Jack-up vessels: Can raise themselves out of the water on extendable legs, which is useful for installing offshore wind farms   
   Boats: Smaller than ships, used for transportation on rivers and lakes.  
   Barges: Can also be called a vessel.  
   Floating platforms: Can also be called a vessel.  
   The term "vessel" can also refer to the line a shipping vessel traces.
3. Voyage: Voyage of a ship means a journey of a ship from one port to another irrespective of whether a ship transports a cargo or passengers or not. The time required to load or unload the ship at the port or embark and disembark the passenger shall also be included into the time of the voyage of a ship.
4. Place of receipt: The place of receipt refers to the location where goods are initially received by the carrier or their authorized agent from the shipper or consignor. It is the point where the carrier takes possession of the goods and assumes responsibility for their transportation.
5. Estimated Time of Departure (ETD): Estimated time of departure (ETD) is the projected time when a shipment leaves its origin point, such as a warehouse, port, or distribution centre. ETD marks the beginning of the shipment's last mile delivery journey.  
   Other terms used in shipping include:  
    Estimated time of arrival (ETA): The time when a transportation vehicle or vessel is expected to arrive at its inal destination   
   Actual time of departure (ATD): The actual time when a shipment departs   
   Actual time of arrival (ATA): The actual time when a shipment arrives
6. The port of loading (POL): The port of loading (POL) is the location where cargo is loaded onto a ship, which marks the beginning of the cargo's maritime journey. The POL is also known as the port of exit or port of departure.
7. Empty pickup: Empty containers can be picked up at container depots, which are storage facilities for empty containers owned by container shipping or leasing companies. At these depots, containers are maintained and safety checks are performed. Exporters can obtain empty containers from the depots, and importers can return empty containers there.
8. The shipper delivers the cargo to a container yard (CY) or container freight station (CFS) and then the carrier transports the cargo to the port for loading onto a vessel.
9. Delivery to Pier: A shipping arrangement where the shipper delivers the cargo to a container yard or container freight station, which then transports it to the pier (port facilities) for loading. The shipper is responsible for delivering the cargo to the container yard or freight station, while the carrier is responsible for transporting it to the pier.
10. Ship mode: Shipping mode can be FCL or LCL.  
     **FCL** stands for "full container load" and is a shipping method where a single shipper's goods fill an entire container. FCL is a good option when you have enough cargo to fill a container, such as large or fragile items.   
    Here are some things to consider when using FCL:   
    Container size: The size of the container you need will depend on the amount of cargo you have. For example, you might be able to fill a 20-foot container but not a 40-foot one.   
    Cost: Even if you can't fill an entire container, businesses may still choose FCL if the difference in cost is minimal.   
    Other factors: When choosing between FCL and LCL (less than container load), you should also consider the weight and dimensions of your shipment, as well as whether it contains dangerous goods or needs to arrive quickly.  
    **What does LCL mean? :**The counter term is **LCL** – '**Less than Container Load'.** The term is used to describe the transportation of small ocean-freight shipments, which do not require the full capacity of a container. This is why an LCL container is also called a 'consolidated container'.   
    **Benefits of LCL: LCL (Less than Container Load)** is a flexible and cost-effective option for transporting smaller, less time-critical shipments between the world’s major ports. This flexible shipping method is suitable for everything from a small parcel to a large shipment. The advantage is that you can get your goods on their way as soon as they are ready, instead of having to wait until your goods fill a complete container. Remember that in the case of LCL you can't decide what other types of cargo you share the container with. In addition, there may be delays beyond your control, due to the fact that the container is used by several parties. Shipping companies often offer fixed departure times with guaranteed cargo space on the most important routes.  
    **FCL** (Full Container Load) and **LCL** (Less than Container Load) are not only frequently used in shipping, but also in transport by truck, rail and air freight. For example, if shipments are transported by truck, forwarders use the very similar terms FTL, which means 'Full Truck Load' or LTL – 'Less than Truck Load'.
11. **SVC Term** – (CY/CY or CFS/CFS or CY/CFS): CY/CY and CFS/CFS are terms used in the supply chain to describe how cargo is handled and transported, and the different types of shipments that use these facilities:   
    CY/CY: The term "CY/CY" in shipping refers to "Container Yard to Container Yard". It's a model in which the shipping line is responsible for the container from the time it's delivered to the container yard at the origin port until it's delivered to the container yard at the destination port.

CY/CY

A Full Container Load (FCL) shipment where the cargo is picked up at the container yard (CY) at the origin port and delivered to the CY at the destination port. The carrier is responsible for the shipment from the CY at the origin port to the CY at the destination port.

CFS/CFS

A consignment where the cargo is consolidated at the container freight station (CFS) at the origin port and then de-consolidated at the CFS at the destination port. This is usually an LCL shipment, where the cargo is delivered to the CFS to be grouped together for a specific destination.

CY/CFS

A shipment where the cargo is picked up at the CY at the origin port and delivered to the CFS at the destination port, where it is de-consolidated. This is typically a consolidation of LCL shipments at the origin port, where the cargo is grouped together, but delivered to a single consignee at the destination port's CY.

CFS

A facility where cargo is consolidated, deconsolidated, or temporarily stored during transportation.

CY

A designated area where containers are stored before or after transportation.

1. OBL type: Other types of B/Ls include: The OBL signifies the transfer of title, allowing the buyer to take ownership. It is often a requirement for payment, particularly when using Letters of Credit (LCs)

Straight Bill of Lading

Ocean Bill of Lading

Order Bill of Lading

Multimodal Bill of Lading

Through Bill of Lading

Master Bill of Lading

Clean Bill of Lading

Release Bill of Lading