

Common International Shipping Terms & Phrases

A/M, U/M - Recognised abbreviation in routine communications for “above-mentioned” and “Under-mentioned”.

Bulk Cargo - this means that the goods do not require packing, such cargoes are usually coal, timber, oil, wheat, etc.

“By first...opportunity” - this is an expression used in shipping and means the first opportunity to ship the goods by a suitable vessel.

Commence loading - loading dates are given by ship-owners so that the cargo can be assembled at the docks in good time.

Closes for cargo - a date is also given when the ship-owners will.

Document of title - a document that represents the goods or money and gives the right or title to the goods or money.

Duty - the tax levied on the import of goods.

Drawback - on allowance granted by the customs on re-export of goods on which duty was paid on import.

Delivery Order - a document from the owner, or holder, of the goods requesting the release of goods held under warrant.

Dues - charges made by port authorities: dock dues; port dues.

Dock warrant, warehouse warrant - these are receipts issued for cargo deposited at dock warehouse.

Entry - a word used by the customs, referring to the particulars entered in a book; can be either entry in or entry out.

Fixture - particularly used in connection with chartering.

Freight - cost of transport.

Group age Rates - small consignments are sometimes, “grouped” together in one bill of lading; this is usually done by forwarding agents.

In accordance with. ..Articles - this refers to the regulations laid down by different countries concerning the crews of their ship.

Mate - the first officer of a ship, next in rank to the Master or Captain.

Parcel - in commercial language this does not always mean goods wrapped up in paper but indicates one particular “lot”.

Per 20 cwt or 40 Cubic Feet At Steamer’s Option - the ship owners can choose whether to charge freight on the weight or measurement; 40 Cubic Feet is taken as equivalent to 20 cwt.

Routing Order - instructions concerning the “route” by which the consignment is to be sent.

Sleepers - the supports for railway lines, placed at regular intervals at right angles to the rails.

Trampship - this is a vessel that does not operate on a fixed route as a “liner” does.

Turn round - as applied to a ship is the unloading, reloading and carrying out of the necessary formalities before the ship can sail again.

Tally - the record or list of cargo loaded or discharged; it is checked by a tally clerk, therefore, to tally means to be correct.

Tariff - used for a list of charges.

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