

NSL GUIDE

Shipping & Logistics Glossary

Freight forwarding has its own language. This **shipping and logistics glossary** explains the terms you will see on quotes, bills of lading and customs documents.

Shipping terms A–Z

AWB	Air Waybill — the transport document for air cargo.
B/L	Bill of Lading — receipt, contract of carriage and title document for sea cargo.
BAF	Bunker Adjustment Factor — fuel surcharge added to ocean freight.
CBM	Cubic metre — the unit used to measure cargo volume (L × W × H in metres).
CFS	Container Freight Station — warehouse where LCL cargo is consolidated or de-consolidated.
Chargeable weight	For air freight, the greater of actual weight and volumetric weight.
COO	Certificate of Origin — proves the country where goods were produced.
Cut-off	The last time cargo or documents can be accepted for a sailing or flight.
Demurrage	Charge for keeping a container at the port terminal beyond the free time.
Detention	Charge for keeping the carrier's container outside the port beyond the free time.
ETA / ETD	Estimated Time of Arrival / Departure.
FCL	Full Container Load — one shipper uses the whole container.
GD	Goods Declaration — customs declaration filed in Pakistan via WeBOC/PSW.
HBL / MBL	House Bill of Lading (issued by a forwarder/NVOCC) / Master Bill of Lading (issued by the shipping line).
HS code	Harmonized System code — the international product classification used for customs duty.

IGM	Import General Manifest — list of cargo on a vessel or flight filed with customs.
Incoterms	ICC rules defining buyer and seller responsibilities — see our Incoterms 2020 guide.
ISF	Importer Security Filing (10+2) required for ocean cargo to the USA.
LCL	Less than Container Load — cargo shares a container with other shippers.
NVOCC	Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier — a carrier that issues its own B/L without owning ships.
OOG	Out of Gauge — cargo larger than a standard container's dimensions.
PSW	Pakistan Single Window — the national online platform for trade documentation.
Reefer	Refrigerated container for temperature-controlled cargo.
Telex release	Electronic release of cargo without presenting the original B/L at destination.
THC	Terminal Handling Charges — fees for handling containers at the port.
Transshipment	Moving cargo from one vessel to another at an intermediate port.
VGM	Verified Gross Mass — certified weight of a packed export container.
WeBOC	Web Based One Customs — Pakistan Customs' online clearance system.

Need help with a shipment?

Get a free quote at <https://www.nslship.com/get-a-quote/> or call +92-21-3247-2290-93.