

COMMON INDUSTRY TERMS

BILL OF LADING (BOL OR B/L)

A bill of lading is a binding contract that serves three main purposes: a receipt for the goods delivered to the transportation provider for shipment; a definition or description of the goods; and evidence of title to the relative goods, if "negotiable".

COMMODITY

Any goods which are shipped.

CONSIGNEE

The party which receives the goods in a freight shipment. Sometimes referred to as the receiver.

DETENTION

Penalty fee for delaying the carrier's equipment beyond the allotted time. Typical allotted time is 2 hours for loading and 2 hours for unloading a full truckload.

FREIGHT

Any product being transported.

FREIGHT BROKER (THIRD PARTY LOGISTICS COMPANY, 3PL)

A freight broker is an independent contractor paid to arrange freight transportation. Unlike asset-based carriers, freight brokers have much more available capacity since they are not restricted to certain set of available assets.

LIFT GATE

A lift gate is a mechanical device attached to the back of a truck so that a heavy object can be lifted to or from the ground.

PALLET JACK

A pallet jack is a tool used to lift and move pallets.

SHIPPER

The party which sends or ships goods in a freight shipment.

TONU

Acronym standing for, "Truck Ordered, Not Used." This fee is a cancellation charge for ordering a truck and then cancelling the order.



TRAILER TYPES

DRY VAN

Sometimes this trailer is called a "van" or "box trailer". They are used for the transport of freight that must be kept dry. They are normally loaded from the rear by forklifts or pallet jacks. It is available in 48' or 53' lengths with the latter being the more common. The weight limit is generally 44,000 lbs for these trailers.

FLATBED

An open truck bed or trailer used to carry objects such as heavy machinery, steel, lumber, building products, etc. Flatbeds utilize numerous securement devices including chains, straps and binders along with various lengths of tarps for weather protection of the transported products. There are a few flatbed subtypes, such as lowboy and drop-deck trailers. Flatbed trailers can haul 44,000 to 48,000 lbs.

LOW BOY / DOUBLE DROP

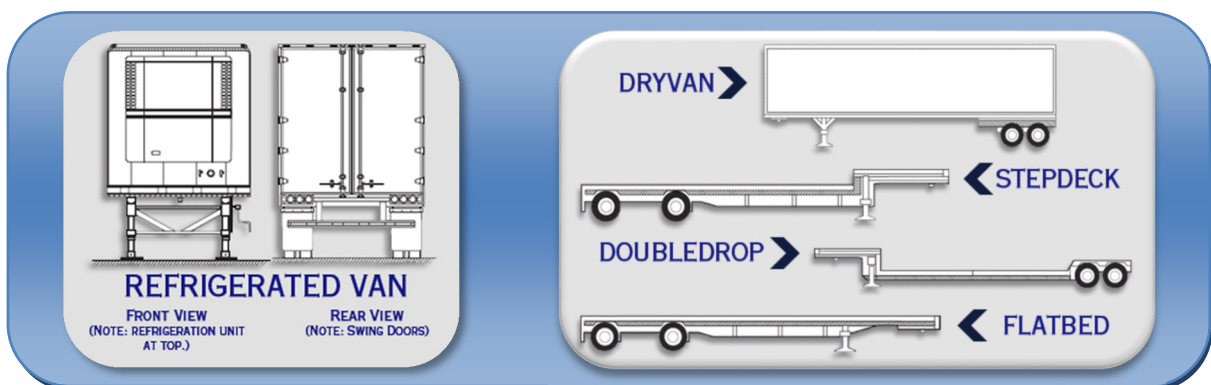
Unlike a standard flatbed trailer, this kind of trailer can carry taller cargo that would normally violate height restrictions on another trailer. Thanks to the lowboy trailer, abnormally high cargo can still be transported without having to find special routes

REEFER

An insulated truck equipped and used as a refrigerator to transport fresh, perishable, or frozen products. The refrigerated and temperature-controlled logistics sector continues to evolve to meet the diverse palette of food manufacturers and distributors and their requirements.

STEP DECK

These trailers are also referred to as a "single drop" or "drop deck" trailers. They are used to haul many of the same types of freight as a flatbed. The advantage is that this trailer can haul a higher load without having to buy permits for the load. Most trailers are 48' long. It is also available in a 53' length. The upper deck is usually either 10' or 11' long. The step deck can transport 44,000 to 45,000 lbs.



MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

FULL TRUCKLOAD (FTL)

Shipments which require the use of a full trailer.

PARTIAL TRUCKLOADS (PTL)

Shipments which do not require use of the entire trailer. These shipments can be combined with other shipments resulting in reduced costs to ship freight. This method is typically associated with partial shipments which exceed 12 linear feet. For partial truckloads less than 12 linear feet, see LTL.

LESS-THAN-TRUCKLOAD (LTL)

Palletized shipments which utilize 12 linear feet or less. LTL shipments are typically performed by national or regional LTL carriers who have built hub and spoke models designed to efficiently move smaller freight shipments.

INTERMODAL (RAIL)

The use of two modes (truck and train) to complete a single long-distance movement of freight. The freight is typically loaded in a standard dry van which is pulled by a truck. The truck takes the freight to the nearest rail yard (ramp) so the trailer can be loaded onto a train for transit. The trailer is removed from the train once it arrives at a rail yard near the final destination. Finally, trailer is hooked back up to a truck, which will deliver the goods to the final destination. This mode of transportation can offer significant cost savings on long haul shipments.

