

**CHILL-CHAIN
GUIDES**

A Glossary of Logistics Industry Jargon

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A a

Ad-hoc

Most commonly used in reference to an 'ad-hoc load' (also known as a 'spot' load), refers to transportation or logistics services arranged on a one-time or as-needed basis, rather than on a regular schedule or contract.

Ambient

Refers to the normal, room temperature environment, typically used in the context of storing or transporting goods that do not require temperature control.

Artic

An articulated vehicle is a vehicle which has a permanent or semi-permanent pivot joint in its construction, allowing it to turn more sharply. But in the industry it's a commonly used term used when people need a full sized lorry.

B b

Back Load

Refers to the process of filling a truck or trailer with goods for the return journey after delivering a load to its destination.

BRC Accreditation

Brand Reputation Compliance Global Standards - An accreditation program for logistics service providers in Europe, indicating that the company has met certain quality standards in its operations.

Box Trailer

A type of trailer with a closed, rectangular body used for transporting goods.

Brexit

Short for "British exit," referring to the UK's departure from the European Union and its impact on trade and logistics.

C c

Cap

Pricing cap often placed on a rate card highlighting that orders exceeding a certain number of pallets will not be subject to pricing changes.

CIF

Cost, Insurance, and Freight: A trade term indicating that the seller is responsible for the cost of the goods, insurance, and freight to a named port of destination.

Consolidation

The process of combining multiple smaller shipments into one larger shipment to reduce transportation costs.

Consolidation Hubs

Facilities used to consolidate smaller shipments into larger shipments.

Curtain Sider

A type of truck or trailer with a flexible curtain-like covering that can be opened on one or both sides for loading and unloading. This is also known as a tautliner.

Customs

The government agency responsible for regulating the movement of goods across borders.

D d

De-topped

Or Skimming. A type of 're-working' which includes the process of removing or modifying the top layer of goods on a pallet to adjust the height or improve stability of the load. If a pallet has to be de-topped or skimmed, this means the top layer of goods needs to be manually removed.

Dedicated Vehicles

Vehicles used exclusively by a single customer or for a specific purpose. This means that the vehicle is not used for other purposes or by other customers.

Demurrage

A fee charged by hauliers for the delay in loading or unloading cargo beyond the agreed-upon time limit.

Depot

A location where goods are stored or transferred between trucks or modes of transport, such as a truck to rail.

Dolly Pallet

Are wheeled platforms that are positioned underneath pallets to reduce effort when moving loaded pallets from one place to another along relatively flat ground.

Double Decker

A trailer with greater height capacity and two levels of cargo space, allowing for more efficient use of space and increased carrying capacity.

Double Stacked

The process of loading two layers of cargo on a single pallet in a standard sized truck, typically done with lightweight or non-fragile goods.

Dual Temp

A refrigerated container or truck with two separate temperature zones, allowing for the transportation of goods with different temperature requirements in the same load.

DVS

Short for "Direct Vision Standard," a safety standard for trucks over 12 tonnes operating in London that requires a certain level of driver visibility from the cab, including cameras.

E e

ERN

Short for "European Registration Number," a unique identifier assigned to road vehicles registered in the European Union.

Euro Pallet

A type of pallet commonly used in Europe, measuring 1200 mm x 800 mm. You can typically fit 33 of these pallets on a standard truck.

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F f

Freight

Goods being transported.

Freight Forwarder

A company that arranges transportation of goods on behalf of a shipper.

Frigo

A term commonly used in the EU to refer to a refrigerated lorry.

FSC (Fuel Surcharge)

A surcharge added to freight rates to account for fluctuations in fuel costs.

Full Load Rate

The cost of shipping a full truckload of goods from one location to another.

G g

Gateway

A point at which freight moving from one country to another is interchanged between transportation lines.

H h

Hub

Refers to a central warehouse, where consignments are collected, sorted and reloaded.

I i

IBC Pallet

Short for "Intermediate Bulk Container Pallet," a type of pallet used for transporting liquids or other bulk materials in a large, reusable container.

L l

Lane

A specific route between two points used for the transportation of goods.

M m

MRN

Short for "Movement Reference Number," a unique identifier used in customs procedures to track the movement of goods.

O o

O Licence

Operator's Licence: A licence required in the UK to operate goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes.

P p

Pallet Rate

The cost of shipping a single pallet of goods from one location to another.

Planner

A person responsible for planning the transportation of goods.

POD

Short for "Proof of Delivery," a document or electronic record that confirms the delivery of goods to a recipient.

Primary Network

A network typically run by a retailer to transport goods from its suppliers to the retailers distribution centres for onward distribution.

Procurement

The process of acquiring goods or services.

R r

Rate Card

A document listing the rates charged by a logistics service provider for various routes and destinations.

RDC

Regional Distribution Centre: A facility used to distribute goods to a specific region. In some cases RDC's may also act as storage warehouses too.

Reefer

A refrigerated container or truck used for transporting perishable goods at controlled temperatures.

RHA

Road Haulage Association: A trade association representing road haulage and logistics companies in the UK.

Rigid

A type of truck with a fixed, non-articulated body.

Round Trip

In the logistics industry it is used to refer to a route that involves going to a delivery destination and then returning to the starting point, usually with goods in the vehicle both ways.

S s

Shipper

It is often defined as a person or a company responsible for organising and transporting goods from one point to another.

But to make it clearer, it is the person or company that has goods they need moved. They find a haulage company that will facilitate the movement of these goods.

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SLA

Service Level Agreement: An agreement between a logistics service provider and a customer that outlines the expected level of service.

Spot or Spot load

Also known as an 'ad-hoc' load, refers to transportation or logistics services arranged on a one-time or as-needed basis, rather than on a regular schedule or contract.

[Read our guide to spot shipping here.](#)

Stand Trailer

A trailer which is left at the point of goods origin for them to load with goods either as temporary storage or early (Pre) loading prior to departure.

Sub-contracting

The practice of hiring another company to perform a part of a logistics service.

Supply Chain Engineer

A professional who specialises in designing and optimising supply chains for maximum efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

T t

Tail Lift

A hydraulic lift on the rear of a truck or trailer used for loading and unloading goods without the need for a loading dock.

Tautliner

Is a trademark for a type of trailer with a flexible, tensioned roof and sides, used for transporting goods that require protection from the weather but not refrigeration. This is also known as a curtainsider.

Temperature Record

A record of the temperature of a refrigerated container or truck during transport, typically used to ensure that temperature-sensitive goods have been transported at the required temperature.

Tender

The process of requesting and selecting bids from carriers or logistics service providers for a specific shipment or contract.

Tractor

Or "traction unit" is a heavy-duty towing engine that is used to haul a towed or trailered load. (Prior to the industry, I would of thought of it as the 'truck' part of the truck and trailer).

Tramping

Or "traction unit" is a heavy-duty The practice of making long-distance deliveries which may well take place over a number of days involving the driver living in their cab. engine that is used to haul a towed or trailered load. (Prior to the industry, I would of thought of it as the 'truck' part of the truck and trailer).

Trunking

The transport of goods between two fixed locations, usually on a regular schedule and along a pre-determined route.

W w

WMS

“Warehouse Management System”. Software used to manage warehouse operations, including inventory control, receiving and shipping, and order fulfilment.

Spot Shipping, Contract Tending & Management with Chill-Chain.

Connecting shippers with hauliers, through one centralised marketplace.

[Find out more at chillchain.net.](https://chillchain.net)