

Common abbreviations used in chartering and freight handling

The following is a list of abbreviations, initialisms, and acronyms that you may come across during the *Commercial Shipping* daily operations.

This list is a long way from being a complete list of all the abbreviations in use, so do not be surprised if you occasionally come across one that is not included.

Be prepared to see some stylistic differences in usage, for example, lower and upper cases may be interchanged, and abbreviations may be with or without periods.

AA	always afloat. Also written a.a.
AAAA	always afloat and accessible
ABS	American Bureau of Shipping. AB on loadlines
ADCOM	address commission. Also written ADD
AFRA	average freight assessment rate (scale)
AH	Antwerp/Hamburg range, also aft hatch
AICS	Associate of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers
ANF	arrival notification form
APS	arrival pilot station
APT	after peak tank
AR	Antwerp/Rotterdam range, also all risks. Also written A/R
ARA	Antwerp/Rotterdam/Amsterdam
A/S	alongside
ASEAN	Association of South East Asia Nations
ATDNS	any time day or night SHINC
BA	Buenos Aires
BAF	bunker adjustment factor

BALTIME	a standard BIMCO uniform time-charter form
BB	ballast bonus, also bare boat, also below bridges
BBB	before breaking bulk
BBCP	bare-boat charter party
B/C	bulk carrier
BDI	both dates (or days) included. Also written b.d.i.
B/E	bill of entry (or exchange)
BENDS	both ends
B/G	bonded goods
B/H	bill of health
BIFA	British International Freight Association
BIMCO	Baltic and International Maritime Conference
BIZ	business
BK	bar keel
BKRS	bunkers
B/L	bill of lading
BPA	British Ports Association
B/S	bill of sale (or store)
Bs/L	bills of lading (plural of B/L)
BV	<i>Bureau Veritas</i>
BW	brackish water
BWAD	brackish water arrival draft
BWT	bleeding wing tanks
CABAF	currency and bunker adjustment factor
CAD	cash against documents
CAF	currency adjustment factor
CAN	Canadian or Canada
CB	container base
CC	cubic capacity

CCC	customs clearance certificate
C&D	collected and delivered
CD	customary dispatch, also chart datum
c.f.	see cu. ft.
C&F	cost and freight
CFR	cost and freight
CFS	container freight station
CHIEF	customs handling of import and export freight
CHOP	see CHOPT
CHOPT	charterer's option. Also written CHOP
CHTRS	charterers
C/I	certificate of insurance
CIF	cost, insurance, and freight
CIF&E	cost, insurance, freight, and exchange
CIP	carriage and insurance paid (by seller) to...
CLIA	Cruise Lines International Association
CMI	<i>Comité Maritime Internationale</i> (an international committee of maritime lawyers)
C/N	consignment note
C/O	certificate of origin, also cash with order
COA	contract of affreightment
COD	cash on delivery
COM	commission
CONSECS	consecutive voyages
COP	custom of the port
COT	customer's own transport
C/P	charter party
CPD	charterers' pay dues
CPDD	charter party dated
CPT	carriage paid (by seller) to...

CQD	customary quick dispatch
CSC	container safety convention
CT	contract, also combined transport
CTD	combined transport document
CTL	constructive total loss
CU	see cu. ft.
cu. ft.	cubic feet. Also written c.f., CU, CUFT
CUFT	see cu. ft.
CVS	consecutive voyages
CWE	cleared without examination
D/A	deposit account, also discharge afloat
DAF	delivered at frontier
DAP	days all purposes
DD	dated, also dry docking, also demand draft, also delivered at docks
DDA	duty (customs) deferment account
DDO	dispatch money payable discharge only
DDU	delivered duty unpaid
D1/2D	dispatch money payable at half the demurrage rate
DELY	delivery
DEQ	delivered ex-quay
DES	delivered ex-ship
DES(DIS)/DEM	despatch (dispatch)/demurrage
DF	direction finder
DFD	demurrage/free dispatch
DGN	dangerous goods note
DHD	demurrage/half dispatch

DHDATSBE	demurrage half dispatch, all time saved both ends
DHDWTSBE	demurrage half dispatch, working time saved both ends
DISCH	discharge
DISOPS	discharging operations
DLO	dispatch money payable loading only
DNV	<i>Det Norske Veritas</i>
DO	diesel oil. Also written D/O. Also delivery order. Also written D/O
DOP	dropping outward pilot
DOT	Department of Transport. Also written DTp
D/P	documents against payment
DT	deep tank
DTI	direct trader input
DTp	see DOT
DW	see dwt.
DWAT	deadweight all told (same as dwt.)
DWC	see DWCC
DWCC	deadweight cargo capacity. Also written d.w.c., DWC
dwt.	deadweight (weight of cargo, fuel, etc.). Also written dwt, d.w.t., DW, DWT, DWAT
ECSI	export cargo shipping instructions
EDI	electronic data interchange
EIS	Export Intelligence Service
EIU	even if used
EPU	entry processing unit (customs)
ERTL	expected ready to load
ETA	expected (or estimated) time of arrival
ETC	expected (or estimated) time to complete
ETD	expected (or estimated) time of departure
ETR	expected to be ready

ETS	expected (or estimated) time of sailing
EU	European Union
EXCL	excluding. Also written ex., excl.
EXPLIFT	expected to lift
EXPLOAD	expected to load
EXW	ex-works—departure from factory; all carriage paid by buyer
f.a.a.	free of all average. Also written FAA
FAC	fast as can
f.a.e.	free alongside elevator. Also written FAE
f.a.s.	free alongside or free alongside ship. Also written FAS
FCA	free carrier (named points)
FCL	full container load
f.d.	free discharge. Also written FD
F/D	freight and demurrage
FDD	free demurrage and dispatch
FFI	for further instructions
FH	first half
FHEX	Fridays and holidays excepted
FHINCL	Fridays and holidays included
FICS	Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers
FIFO	first in, first out
f.i.o.	free in and out. Also written FIO
f.i.o.s.	free in, out, and stowed. Also written FIOS
f.i.o.s.p.t.	free in, out, and spout-trimmed. Also written FIOSPT
f.i.o.s.t.	free in, out, stowed, and trimmed. Also written FIOST
f.i.o.t.	free in, out, and trimmed. Also written FIOT
f.i.w.	free in wagon. Also written FIW
FLOP	full loading option

FLT	fork lift truck
f.o.	free overside. Also written FO
FO	fuel oil. Also written F/O. Also firm offer, also see f.o.
f.o.b.	free on board. Also written FOB
FOC	flag of convenience
FOD	free of damage
FOG	for our guidance
FOLL	following
f.o.q.	free on quay. Also written FOQ
f.o.r.	free on rail. Also written FOR
f.o.t.	free on truck. Also written FOT
f.o.w.	free on wharf. Also written FOW
FOW	first open water. See also f.o.w.
FP	free of pratique (clean bill of health), also floating (or open) policy
FPA	free of particular average
FRT	freight
FWAD	freshwater arrival draft
Fwd.	forward
FWD	freshwater damage
FYG	for your guidance
GA	general allowance (or average)
GD	geared vessel
GL	Germanischer Lloyd
GRN	grain cubic
GRT	gross registered tonnage. Also written grt
g.t.	gross terms. Also written GT
GTEE	guarantee
GW	gross weights
HAT	highest astronomic tide

HDWTSBE	half dispatch, working time saved both ends
H/H	holds/hatches
HM	hull and machinery
HR	Hampton Roads
HRS	hours
HSS	heavy sorghums and/or soyas
HWOSt	high water on ordinary spring tide
IALA	International Association of Lighthouse Authorities
IAPH	International Association of Ports and Harbours
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICD	inland clearance depot
ICHCA	International Cargo Handling Coordination Association
ICCL	International Council of Cruise Lines
ICS	International Chamber of Shipping
IFO	intermediate fuel oil
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IMPA	International Maritime Pilots Association
incl.	including. Also written inc.
INFO	information
INTERTANKO	International Association of Independent Tanker Owners
ISF	International Shipping Federation
ISO	International Standards Organization
IUMI	International Union of Marine Insurers
IWL	institute warranty limits
LASH	lighter aboard ship
lat.	latitude
LAT	lowest astronomic tide

LAYCAN	lay days cancelling
lb.	pound (of mass). Also written LB, LBS
LBP	length between perpendiculars. Also written Lpp
LBS	see lb.
L/C	letter of credit
LCL	less than full container load
LDG	loading. Also written ldg.
LDN	London (UK)
LDYS	lay days
LEC	local export control
LH	last half
LIC	local import control
LL	loadline, also Lakes, St. Lawrence
LMC	Lloyd's machinery certification
LNG	liquefied natural gas
lo/lo	lift-on/lift-off. Also written Lo/Lo, LO/LO
LOA	length overall
long.	longitude
LPG	liquefied petroleum gas
Lpp	see LBP
LR	Lloyd's Register of Shipping
LT	long ton (2240 lb. = 1.016 metric tons), also light
LTSBE	lay time saved both ends
LWOST	low water on ordinary spring tide
MHWN	mean high water neap tides
MHWS	mean high water spring tides
ML	more or less
MLWN	mean low water neap tides
MLWS	mean low water spring tides

MIN/MAX	minimum/maximum. Also written M/M
M/M	see MIN/MAX
MMO	multi-modal operator
MOL	more or less
MOLCO	more or less, charterer's option
MOLOO	more or less, owner's option
M/R	mate's receipt
m/s	motor ship. Also written M/S, MS
MSA	Merchant Shipping Act
m.t.	metric ton (tonne). Also written mt, MT
M/T	motor tanker
m/v	motor vessel. Also written M/V, MV
n.a.a.	not always afloat. Also written NAA
NAABSA	not always afloat but safely aground
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Association
NOLA	New Orleans
NOPAC	North Pacific
NOR	notice of readiness
NRT	net (or nett) registered tonnage. Also written nrt
NVOC	non-vessel-owning (operating) company (carrier)
NWP	next working period
NYPE	New York Produce Exchange
OBO	ore/bulk/oil (multi-purpose carrier)
OEC	overpaid entry certificate
O/H	overheight
OO	ore/oil (multi-purpose carrier), also owner's option
OSD	open shelter deck
OSO	ore/slurry oil (multi-purpose carrier)
O/T	overtime
P&C	private and confidential

PC	percent, also passenger certificate
PD	port dues
P&I	protection and indemnity (mutual insurance clubs)
P/L	partial loss
P&O	Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company
POD	paid on delivery
PPT	prompt loading
PT	port
PTL	partial total loss
PUT	port utilization tax
RC	running costs
RDAM	Rotterdam
REDELY	redelivery
REF	reference
REV	revert or reverting
RGDS	regards
RGE	range
r.o.b	remaining on board. Also written ROB
ro/ro	roll-on/roll-off. Also written Ro/Ro, RO/RO
RPT	repeat
RV	round voyage
SA	safe anchorage
SAD	single administrative document
SATAFEX	Saturday afternoon excepted
SAVED BENDS	saved both ends
SB	safe berth
SBAA	one safe berth always afloat
SD	sea water damage, also short delivery

SHEX	Sundays and holidays excepted
SHINC	Sundays and holidays included. Also written SHinc.
S/O	seller's option
SOF	statement of facts
SOL	ship owner's liability
SP	safe port
SR&CC	strike, riot, and civil commotion
ss	steamship. Also written s.s.
SSN	standard shipping note
SSW	summer salt water
ST	short ton (2000 lb. = 0.907 metric tons), also straight time, also self-trimming
STCW	International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (IMO)
STEM	subject to enough merchandise
SUB	subject, also substitute
s/v	sailing vessel. Also written S/V
SW	salt water
SWAD	salt water on arrival draft
SWL	safe working load
TARV	transatlantic round voyage
TBA	to be advised
TBC	to be chartered
TBN	to be nominated
TC	time charter. Also written T/C
TDA	see TDY
TDW	ton deadweight
TDY	today. Also written TDA
TEU	twenty-foot equivalent (container size)

THKS	thanks
TIP	taking inward pilot
T/L	total loss
TLO	total loss only
TOM	tomorrow
TPC	tonnes per centimetre
TPI	tons per inch
TSS	turbine steamship
TST	topside tanks
ULCC	ultra large crude carrier
ULD	unit load device
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UU	unless used
USD	United States dollar
VAT	value added tax
VLCC	very large crude carrier
VOY	voyage
VSL	vessel
WA	with average
WGT	see wt.
WHR	warehouse receipt
WIBON	whether in berth or not
WIPON	whether in port or not
WIFPON	whether in free pratique or not
W/M	weight or measure
WOG	without guarantee
WP	weather permitting
WPA	with particular average
WPAGW	weather permitting all going well

WRO	war risks only. Also written w.r.o.
wt.	weight. Also written WGT, WT
WTO	World Trade Organization
WW	weather working
WWD	weather working days
WWDSHEX	weather working days, Sundays and holidays excepted
WWR	when and where ready