

CROSS-BORDER  
GLOSSARY  
OF TERMS



# ACRONYMS

CSXT Intermodal provides shippers valuable tools to better understand and navigate cross-border shipping. For more information on key terms, refer to the acronyms table and glossary below.

ABI	Automated Broker Interface system
ACE	Automated Commercial Environment
ACROSS	(Canada Customs) Accelerated Commercial Release Operations Support System
AES	Automated Export System
BCS	Border Cargo Selectivity
BOL	Bill of Lading
BRASS	Border Release Advanced Screening and Selectivity
CAED	Canadian Automated Export Declaration
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
CBSA	Canada Border Services Agency
CFR	U.S. Code of Federal Regulations
CSA	Customs Self Assessment
C-TPAT	Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism program
DP	<i>Despacho Previo</i> – A process for pre-clearing shipments with Mexico customs. DP notifies the Mexican broker when cars are billed to Mexico. DP allows for the prompt movement of freight cars into Mexico when paperwork is completed.
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
EEI	Electronic Export Information

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EIN	Export Import Number
FAK	Freight of All Kinds
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FIRMS	Facilities Information and Resources Management System
INPARS	Inland Pre-Arrival Review System
IT	Immediate Transportation Bond
ITN	Internal Transaction Number
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NOEEI	No Electronic Export Information
PARS	Pre-Arrival Review System
RMD	Release on Minimum Documentation
SCAC	Standard Carrier Alpha Code
SED	Shipper's Export Declaration
SNP	Secondary Notify Party
STCC	Standardization Transportation Commodity Code
T&E	Transportation and Exportation Bond
USPPI	United States Principal Party of Interest (The Exporter)
VACIS	Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System

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# GLOSSARY

The glossary below is a reference tool for decoding the industry-specific terms associated with cross-border shipping.

ACCURATE  
AND SPECIFIC  
DESCRIPTION  
OF GOODS

Shipping instructions must include a full and detailed description of all contents of a shipment (i.e., FAK is not sufficient).

AUTOMATED  
BROKER  
INTERFACE (ABI)

The electronic link between the U.S. Customs Broker, Carriers and U.S. Customs Agency.

AUTOMATED  
COMMERCIAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
(ACE)

The automated system used by U.S. Customs Carriers and Brokers to control customs transactions.

AUTOMATED  
EXPORT SYSTEM  
(AES)

The U.S. Census Bureau's Automated Export System is the central point through which export shipment data required by multiple agencies is filed electronically to Customs. The system-generated Internal Transaction Number (ITN) must be reported on Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) billing instructions.

ADMINISTRATIVE  
MONETARY PENALTY  
SYSTEM (AMPS)

A civil penalty regime that secures compliance with customs legislation through the application of monetary penalties. AMPS authorizes the CBSA to assess monetary penalties for non-compliance with customs legislative, regulatory and program requirements.

BOND

A bond shall contain international carrier conditions with agreement to pay penalties, duties, taxes, and other charges.

BORDER CARGO  
SELECTIVITY (BCS)

A computerized system used in the United States to distinguish between risky and non-risky imports and related transactions coming over land through high-volume ports of entry.

BORDER RELEASE  
ADVANCED  
SCREENING AND  
SELECTIVITY  
(BRASS)

Designed to expedite the release of high-volume, highly-compliant cargo shipments, allowing the carrier to cross the border before the filing of a formal entry by the customs broker. To qualify for release under BRASS, the importer must provide the carrier with a C4 code that covers the goods being imported.

**BROKER**

Company or individual who acts as an agent for a customer, who is attempting to route freight to or from a customer in Canada.

**BUYER**

Party of the transaction responsible for payment of goods.

**CANADA BORDER  
SERVICES AGENCY  
(CBSA)**

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) oversees and regulates the access of people and goods to and from Canada.

**CARGO CONTROL  
DOCUMENT  
(CCD)**

Also known as cargo manifest, carrier's bill, customs bill. It provides advanced customs information for goods entering Canada.

**CONSIGNEE NAME**

Name of the party taking delivery of the shipment.

**CUSTOMS BROKER**

Company or individual licensed by the United States Department of the Treasury to act on behalf of importers/exporters in handling U.S. customs transactions.

**CUSTOMS  
CLEARANCE  
(CUSTOMS RELEASE)**

The formal review of goods entering the country by appropriate customs agency. This process compares all advanced data for accuracy and review, allowing the inspector to determine release or hold for further review.

***DESPACHO PREVIO***

A process for pre-clearing shipments with Mexico customs. DP notifies the Mexican broker when cars are billed to Mexico. DP allows for the prompt movement of freight cars into Mexico when all paperwork is completed.

**ENTRY**

Appropriate documentation filed by the responsible party to a customs agency to have goods cleared by customs, and to pay relevant duties and taxes where applicable.

**EXPORT PERMIT**

Authorization by other government agencies to freely move certain permitted goods in or out of a country.

## EXPORTER

The parties responsible for providing export documentation.

## FACILITIES INFORMATION AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (FIRMS)

The code representing the location of the goods and must be a bonded facility.

## FREIGHT OF ALL KINDS (FAK)

A general description used for shipments containing mixed products. This description cannot be used for transborder shipments. A detailed description is required by all government agencies.

## IMPORT PERMIT

Authorization by other government agencies to freely move certain permitted goods in or out of a country.

## IMPORTER (OF RECORD)

The party responsible for compliance of all customs regulations.

## INLAND PRE-ARRIVAL REVIEW SYSTEM (INPARS)

A component of the Pre-Arrival Review System (PARS) that covers the clearance of goods at an inland highway sufferance warehouse.

## INTERNAL TRANSACTION NUMBER (ITN)

A confirmation number provided when using the Automated Export System (AES) indicating successful submission of export documentation.

## INVOICE (LETTER OF VALUE, INVOICE AND PACKAGING LIST)

The commercial invoice provides customs with details of the transaction of goods. In lieu of the commercial invoice, a *pro forma* invoice may be used if the commercial invoice is not readily available.

## MANIFEST

A rail document used to provide customs with advanced information for review prior to the rail consist being created.

NOEEI

Each exemption code begins with the acronym “NOEEI,” which stands for “No Electronic Export Information.” The numerical code after “NOEEI” refers to the section in the Census Bureau’s regulations that establishes why the shipment is exempt from filing requirements.

PIECE COUNT

The number of individual cases, packages, or bundles in an intermodal trailer or container.

PRE-ARRIVAL  
REVIEW SYSTEM  
(PARS)

Allows importers and brokers to submit release on minimum documentation (RMD) information to Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) for review and processing before their goods arrive in Canada.

*PRO FORMA*

This is an abbreviated commercial invoice where the importer, broker, and shippers are known to each other.

RELEASE ON  
MINIMUM  
DOCUMENTATION  
(RMD)

Allows importers to obtain release of their goods by presenting data for interim accounting. Full accounting data and payment are not required at the time of release but they are required within certain time frames.

SECONDARY  
NOTIFY PARTY  
(SNP)

Allows ACE participants to nominate up to eight other entities to receive a copy of the status notification for an individual bill of lading.

SELLER

The party in the transaction who would receive payment for the goods.

SHIPPER NAME

Name of ultimate or originating shipper to include but not limited to the buyer and seller.

SHIPPERS’ EXPORT  
DECLARATION  
(SED)

A U.S. Census requirement for goods of U.S. origin to any country other than Canada.

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SUFFERANCE  
WAREHOUSE

Sufferance warehouses are privately owned and operated facilities licensed by CBSA for the control, short-term storage, transfer, delivery and examination of in-bond goods until the goods are released by CBSA or exported from Canada.

ULTIMATE PORT  
OF DESTINATION  
AND COUNTRY

The rail destination or port for multi-modal shipments.

UNITED STATES  
PORT OF EXIT

The name and port code of where the merchandise moving in-bond from Canada to the U.S. exits the country.

VALUE AND  
CURRENCY

Transaction value in U.S. dollars or Canadian dollars.