

TYPES OF BILL OF LADING

Types of Bill of Lading (BOL)

A Bill of Lading (BOL) is a legal shipping document that acts as a **receipt**, a **contract of carriage**, and sometimes a **document of title**. Below are the main types of Bills of Lading, especially relevant for trucking, freight, and CDL operations.

The image displays three examples of Bill of Lading (BOL) forms:

- Straight Bill of Lading (Non-Negotiable):** This form is titled "Straight Bill of Lading" and "Original - Not Negotiable". It includes fields for "Ship From" and "Ship To" addresses, "Carrier Name", "Trailer No.", "Seal Number(s)", "Pro No.", and "Special Instructions". It also includes sections for "Customer Order Information" and "Commodity Description".
- Order Bill of Lading (Negotiable):** This form is titled "Order Bill of Lading" and "Original - Negotiable". It includes fields for "Ship From" and "Ship To" addresses, "Carrier Name", "Trailer No.", "Seal Number(s)", "Pro No.", and "Special Instructions". It also includes sections for "Customer Order Information" and "Commodity Description".
- House Air Waybill:** This form is titled "House Air Waybill" and includes fields for "Shipper Account Number", "Bill of Lading Number", "Carrier Name", "Trailer No.", "Seal Number(s)", "Pro No.", and "Special Instructions". It also includes sections for "Customer Order Information" and "Commodity Description".

1. Straight Bill of Lading (Non-Negotiable)

- Shipment is delivered **only to the named consignee**
- Cannot be transferred or sold
- Common for **prepaid freight**
- Used when ownership **does not change**

✓ Most common in everyday trucking

2. Order Bill of Lading (Negotiable)

- Made “**to the order of**” a party
- Can be **endorsed and transferred**
- Used when goods are **sold during transit**
- Common in **international or high-value shipments**

⚠ Acts as a **document of title**

3. Bearer Bill of Lading

- Whoever holds the document owns the freight
- No named consignee
- High risk if lost or stolen
- Rare in modern trucking

4. Clean Bill of Lading

- Cargo received in **good condition**
- No notes of damage or shortages
- Preferred by shippers and banks

5. Clauses (Foul) Bill of Lading

- Notes **damage, shortages, or defects**
- Protects the carrier
- May delay payment or delivery

6. Through Bill of Lading

- Covers **multiple transportation modes**
 - Example: Truck → Rail → Ship
- One contract for the entire journey
- Common in **intermodal freight**

7. Inland Bill of Lading

- Used for **land transportation only**
- Often precedes ocean or export shipping

8. Ocean Bill of Lading

- Used for **sea freight**
- Issued by ocean carriers

- Required for international shipping

9. Master Bill of Lading

- Issued by the **main carrier**
- Covers entire shipment
- Often paired with House BOLs

10. House Bill of Lading (HBL)

- Issued by **freight forwarders**
- Covers a portion of the shipment
- Used in consolidated freight

11. Electronic Bill of Lading (eBOL)

- Digital version of a BOL
- Reduces paperwork and errors
- Common with ELDs and modern TMS systems

 Increasingly used in U.S. trucking

12. Short Form Bill of Lading

- Simplified version
- Refers to carrier's full terms elsewhere
- Used for efficiency in trucking operations

CDL / Inspection Tip

During **pre-trip or post-trip inspections**, drivers should:

- Verify **shipper & consignee info**
- ~~Check freight description & weight~~

- Note any damage before signing

Signing a **clean BOL** means you agree the load is in good condition.

If you want, I can:

- Match **BOL types to trailer types**
- Explain what **CDL drivers are legally responsible for**
- Create a **BOL inspection checklist**
- Compare **BOL vs Freight Bill vs Rate Confirmation**

Just tell me 

