

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 different types of Bill of Lading forms. The first is a 'Straight Bill of Lading' which is non-negotiable and includes fields for shipper and consignee information, a table for cargo details, and a section for special instructions. The second is an 'Order Bill of Lading' which is negotiable and includes a 'To Order of' field and a table for cargo details. The third is a 'House Air Waybill' which is used for air freight and includes fields for shipper, consignee, and flight details, along with a table for cargo details.

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. Claused (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 👍

