



| Term | Definition |
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| Break-bulk | Heterogeneous cargo in various forms: pallets, barrels, bags, etc. All cargo that is not in bulk or containers. |
| Bulk cargo | Cargo not shipped in packages or containers, but shipped loose in the hold of a ship. Grain, coal, and sulfur are usually bulk cargo. |
| Container | A steel box, 8 feet wide by either 8 feet 6 inches or 9 feet 6 inches high, and either 20, 40, or 45 feet long, used for transporting dry or refrigerated goods. Shipping containers can be carried by—and transferred between—trucks, railcars, barges, and ships. |
| PIERS | The Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS) is a firm that collects data on U.S. international trade. < http://www.piers.com > |
| Project cargo | Project cargo can be defined in two ways: (1) A quantity of goods associated with a particular project—usually a construction project. It can include equipment or materials such as steel, lumber, or concrete; (2) A large and/or heavy piece of cargo, often unusually sized or shaped, that needs special handling during loading, transit, and unloading. |
| Roll on-Roll off | A type of ship designed for wheeled cargo that is driven on at the origin and off at the destination. Also referred to as “ro-ro.” |
| TEU | Twenty-foot equivalent unit, a standard shipping container size used in describing container ship capacity. |



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