Logistics Terms and Abbreviations

Application Programming Interface (API) — A digital program that allows for data exchange between two or more applications via the cloud.

ATA — Actual time of arrival

ATD — Actual time of departure

Bill of Lading (BOL) — A legally binding document between a shipper and carrier that details all the information needed to process a freight shipment.

BOL Number — The number established by the carrier that refers to a specific BOL.

Co-Manufacturer (Co-Man) — A third-party partner that produces goods from raw materials or semi-finished materials on behalf of its client.

First-In, First-Out (FIFO) — An inventory management strategy that requires product to be used in chronological order from its arrival to a facility.

Free on Board (FOB) — Used to decide who is liable for goods that are damaged during shipment.

Freight-All-Kinds (FAK) — Pricing strategy that bundles multiple freight classes into a single class.

Full Truckload (FTL) — A shipment on which an entire trailer is filled with product.

Just in Time (JIT) — An inventory control system that requires materials to arrive just in time for use.

Key Performance Indicator (KPI) — In logistics, KPIs are critical metrics that highlight the performance of your supply chain.

Less-Than-Truckload (LTL) — A shipment mode that consolidations several smaller shipments on a single truck.

Must-Arrive By Date (MABD) — The date set by retailers that specifies when a vendor must have a product to their receiving facilities.

National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC) — A tariff that puts all products that can be hauled as freight into 18 different classes, numbered 50 to 500.

On-Time In-Full (OTIF) — A standard by which retailers' grade a supplier's ability to have product delivered to their distribution centers within prescribed delivery windows and at full quantities ordered.

Over-the-Road (OTR) — The transportation mode that involves long-distance moves via a truck.

Proof of Delivery (POD) — Information supplied by the carrier that specifies who signed for the shipment, when it arrived, and any other information.

Purchase Order (PO) — A document that specifies the details of a transaction between buyer and supplier.

Request for Proposal (RFP) — Refers to the process of bidding your freight lanes out to transportation providers for an upcoming period of time.

Request for Quote (RFQ) — Another term for a transportation RFP.

Transportation Management System (TMS) — An application that allows users to perform the activities needed to complete key logistics planning and processes.