

THE TRUCKING COMPANY/INLAND CARRIER

The trucking company will be responsible for the pick up and delivery of the shipper's container to the local rail yard for the next move to the marine port. Alternatively, it may take the shipper's container directly to the port or the ship's side.

It is very important that a shipper should ensure that the trucking company has a good interface with the freight forwarding company and the next ongoing carrier. The trucking company can assist the shipper in the early stages by providing preplanning advice by early consultation. Positioning of shipper's cargo in the trailer or container can be planned. Bracing requirements or other precautions that may be required for the intended trip can be assessed and prepared along with the stowage plan.

THE RAILROAD COMPANY/INLAND CARRIER

Many railroad companies offer both trucking and freight forwarding services. The strength of the railroad is to provide long hauls, speed, reliability, and on-time delivery to link up with the vessels for ocean transit.

The prudent shipper would be wise to contact the railroad that he is planning to use and, as with the trucking company, discuss the stowage for his particular products. Railroads have both experienced staff and stowage manuals that can greatly assist a shipper in preparing his products for export stowage.

THE SHIPPING LINE

The ocean voyage is often regarded as the "toughest leg of the journey."

The shipping line has the responsibility for the safe transference of the shipper's container via ocean transit. As with all the above, the earlier the shipper has consultation the better.

In many cases, the shipping line will supply the actual container, hence it is important for them to have as many details as early and as accurately as possible, or to know a shipper's special needs, in order to provide the correct container for both stowage and transit requirements.

Planning and consultation are vital to avoiding damage.