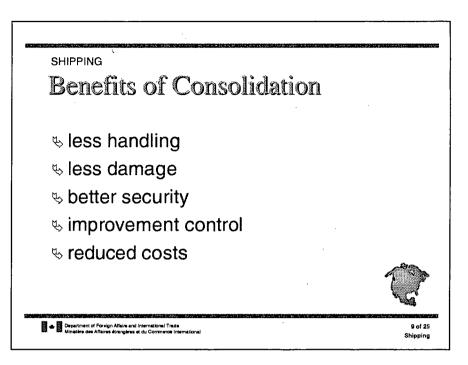
Consolidation



When a transportation company groups shipments from separate exporters into one large shipment, it is known as consolidation or groupage. The consolidator gets the benefit of bulk rates from the carrier by shipping them under one master bill of lading or master air waybill. A consolidator can handle either import or export shipments or a combination of both, thus accomplishing a balanced traffic flow and reducing costs.

Typically, the consolidator takes responsibility for loading and unloading, and the carrier handles the actual transportation. This reduces handling, which means less damage, better security, improved control and lower costs.