



eBL Update DCSA

UN/CEFACT FORUM - Transport & Logistics Domain Meeting

Digital Container Shipping Association

3 October 2023

Digital Container Shipping Association - Introduction



About DCSA

- ✓ Global, non-profit association
- ✓ Covering >70% of global container transport
- ✓ DCSA's mission is to shape the digital future of container shipping
- ✓ Neutral and technology- & vendor agnostic
- ✓ Open source and free for all to use
- ✓ Standards are created by collaborating with all stakeholders of container shipping

DCSA's Vision

At DCSA, we envisage a digitally interconnected container shipping industry in which the customers of ocean carriers have a choice of seamless, easy-to-use services to meet their business goals.



DCSA's ambition and commitment



Commitment to accelerating digitalisation of container trade – the electronic bill of lading

The digitalisation of trade documents holds great potential to remove friction in international trade, to the benefit of our customers' experience and the environment

The digitalisation of documents has fundamentally transformed industries such as banking, aviation, and telecommunications. These industries have implemented digital standards to enable automated ticketing and paperless transactions to the benefit of their ecosystems. International trade has improved its digital capabilities, but has yet to scale standardised automation.

The original bill of lading is one of the most important trade documents. For centuries, it has functioned as a document of title, receipt for the shipped goods, and a record of agreed terms and conditions. However, the bill of lading is often still reliant on the physical transfer of paper records and manual work. Customers are often required to send and receive paper, obtain stamps and signatures to execute the physical transportation from origin to destination. This represents a time-consuming and environmentally expensive process for customers.

An electronic bill of lading could save customers \$6.5 billion in direct costs and enable \$30-40 billion in annual global trade growth. Likewise, digitizing these processes would substantially benefit the environment by removing the need for physical documents and associated transportation.

We are committed to convert in our respective carrier organizations 50% of original bill of lading activities to digital within five years, and 100% by 2030. This represents a significant change for our industry, and we do not take this commitment lightly. We are convinced that the benefits it will bring to customers and global trade are too important to ignore. We ask that all parties involved – shippers, forwarders, governments, financial institutions, and insurance agencies – work together to make this commitment a reality.

Soren Toft
MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company

Vincent Clerc
Maersk

Rodolphe Saade
CMA CGM

Rolf Habben-Jansen
Hapag-Lloyd

Jensyrix Nixon
Ocean Network Express

Eric Hsieh
Evergreen Marine

Kim, Kyung Bae
HMM

Cheng-Mount Cheng
Yang Ming

Eli Glickman
ZIM

DCSA.org

100% in 2030 eBL

to unlock significant savings as well as create opportunities for future growth

On 15 February 2023, the Digital Container Shipping Association (DCSA) announced that its **nine ocean carrier members commit to 100% adoption of an electronic bill of lading (eBL)** based on DCSA standards by 2030.

Switching away from the transfer of physical paper bills of lading could **save \$6.5 billion in direct costs for stakeholders, enable \$30-40 billion in annual global trade growth, transform the customer experience and improve sustainability.**

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Recent developments

- ✓ **UK's Electronic Trade Documents Act entered into force on 20 September**
 - ✓ Major leap in eBL enablement, >60% of DCSA member eBL under UK law
- ✓ **Finalizing legal and regulatory barrier research (join the session tomorrow)**
 - ✓ we will publish soon a report with detailed analysis, conclusions and recommendations
- ✓ **Increased collaboration with eBL solution providers**
 - ✓ Addressing technical and legal interoperability aspects
- ✓ **New versions of DCSA eBL and Booking standards will soon be published**
 - ✓ Major effort in alignment with UN/CEFACT
- ✓ **Launch of the FIT Alliance declaration**
 - ✓ Many Banks, Insurers, Carriers, Solution Providers and Shippers signed the declaration



Lord Holmes, UK House of Lords

“From today electronic trade documents are permitted on the same legal basis as paper documents. It is a huge opportunity but, as the change is permissive rather than mandatory, it relies on us all playing our part to spread the news

We must make sure that those who stand to benefit, particularly small businesses, are aware of the change and enabled to go digital!”

FIT Alliance – Join the Movement!



Future of International Trade Alliance



Sign the eBL Declaration

By signing the FIT alliance eBL declaration we support the eBL movement and commit to collaborate to drive digitalisation in international trade. This commitment is not legally binding but represents our shared vision for a more efficient and sustainable trade ecosystem. Together, we can lead the way towards a digital future powered by electronic Bill of Lading.

Please visit www.fit-alliance.org to join the movement



Thank you

For more info and all our publications, please visit
www.dcsa.org or reach out to
dominique.willems@dcsa.org