



# The freight forwarder's perspective

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International Federation of  
Freight Forwarders Associations

*The global voice of freight logistics*



# What is FIATA?

FIATA (International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations) is the largest federation and voice of global logistics. It leverages the global strength of its membership across the ecosystem to ensure a sustainable and resilient supply chain.



**Vision:**  
'Logistics without borders for a digital and sustainable world'.

- Values:**
- Excellence
  - Innovation
  - Collaboration
  - Inclusion
  - Responsibility

# Role of the Freight forwarders

Freight forwarders ensure the resilience and continuity of global supply chains, acting as a single trusted partner for end-to-end multimodal transportation



- **“Architects of Transport”** amid global uncertainty
- Expertise and know-how to find the most **efficient and effective routes and transport modes** amid disruptions – the **key to building resilience**
- **Crucial partner for shippers**, ensuring unique understanding on customer needs worldwide
- Possibilities for full load or consolidation of multiple shipments gives MSMEs the opportunity to **access international supply chains at competitive prices**



# Why is FIATA renowned?

## FIATA is setting supply chain standards of excellence for facilitating trade

- For over 50 years, FIATA's standard transport documents have served as a mark of quality, excellence and harmonisation in freight forwarder documents and forms.
- The Negotiable FIATA Multimodal Transport Bill of Lading (FBL)'s globally renowned house bill of lading (HBL) standard is endorsed by UNCTAD/ICC and conforms with UCP 600 and relevant international conventions, fostering interoperability, accessibility and clarity in supply chain operations.

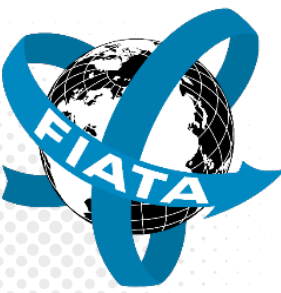
Negotiable FIATA Multimodal Transport Bill of Lading (FBL)

FIATA Multimodal Transport Waybill (FWB)

FIATA Forwarders Certificate of Receipt (FCR)

FIATA Warehouse Receipt (FWR)

# FIATA support to multimodal corridor development



## FIATA's ongoing work to optimise the performance and efficiency of multimodal transport corridors

### Strengthening transport possibilities through negotiable multimodal transport documents

- Ongoing work at UNCITRAL to strengthen legal recognition of negotiable multimodal transport documents and to help secure access to trade finance
- Promoting **FIATA multimodal transport bill of lading (paper/digital)**, ensuring accessibility to companies of all sizes

### Fostering swifter border clearance

- Providing industry recommendations at the World Customs Organisation (WCO) on **border measures** that deliver the greatest impact for efficient and effective trade

### Building resilient and well-functioning corridors through international collaboration

- Fostering international dialogue and regional collaboration on key trade corridors such as China-Europe routes, in collaboration with UNECE, UIC, OTIF, CIT, OSJD, FIATA Association Members, local organisations, etc.
- Conducting capacity-building and knowledge-sharing events with international and local partners



# Digitalisation and corridor development

There is a need to streamline the digital standards and exchange of multimodal transport data and documents to ensure seamless cross-border trade and transport

Digital multimodal transport documents such as the **eFBL** are important tools to strengthen transport and trade corridors:

- **1 single document** to provide to the bank, irrespective of the modes of transport used, and ensuring quick goods release at the destination.
- **Secure, immutable nature of the Digital eFBL** eliminates concerns of fraud, uncertainty and lost documents.
- **Digitalisation** unleashes new trade facilitation measures for efficiency, cost-savings, accessibility and business continuity.
- Need to **ensure future-proof, interoperable approach** that facilitates access for stakeholders across the supply chain, including SMEs.



# Development of the eFBL

Originating in 1968, the FIATA Multimodal Bill of Lading (FBL) is the only globally recognised multimodal forwarders bill of lading, compliant with UNCTAD/ICC Rules, UCP 600 and international conventions

- **Open-source solution** of FBL was launched in 2022 and is compliant with UNCTAD/ICC/UCP, easily accessible through an API developed in collaboration with industry stakeholders
- **Solution available to freight-forwarders through their everyday tools** (TMSs and other software)
- **Original data and audit trail contained on immutable blockchain** verifiable through unique QR code. Can be converted to a normal paper BL if necessary
- **One document to facilitate interoperability** with other stakeholders' digital initiatives, ensuring logistics harmonisation in a fragmented digital landscape

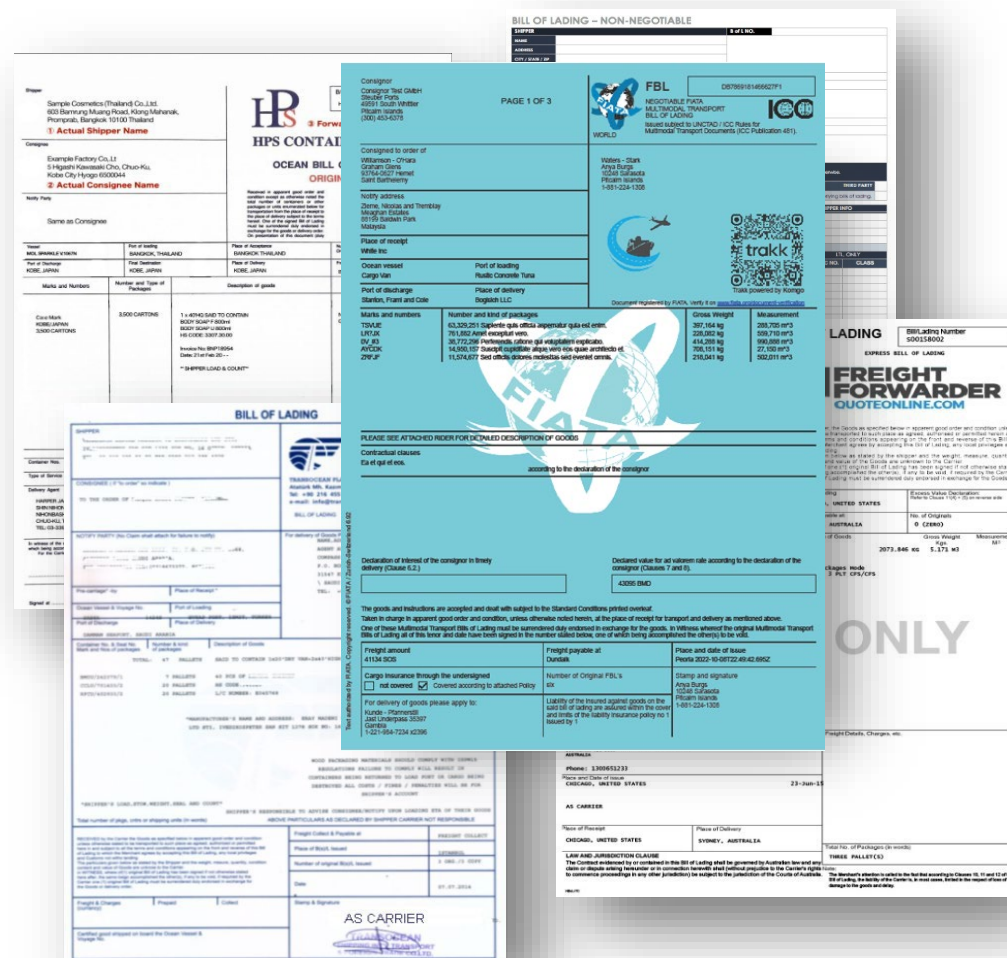
Marks and numbers	Number and kind of packages	Gross weight	Measurement
TOTAL	63,329,251 Superficie gela officia aspernatur quia est enim.	397,164 kg	288,735 m <sup>3</sup>
LTCLX	76,1862 Aenean euismod vestibulum.	226,082 kg	169,710 m <sup>3</sup>
OV_83	35,772,296 Perenehendis cubitae qui euipulveneri explicabo.	414,288 kg	308,888 m <sup>3</sup>
AVCDK	14,500,157 Quaequid cupiditate aliquo vero epos quae architecto et.	708,151 kg	27,130 m <sup>3</sup>
Z9FJF	11,574,677 Sed officis doloris necdedit sed everent ornis.	210,041 kg	302,011 m <sup>3</sup>

Freight amount	Freight payable at	Place and date of issue
41134 9C35	Dunblak	Peoria 3022-10-08122 49.42.6952



# The importance of standards

In the paper world, documents can be received in different colours and formats. In the digital world, it is crucial to exchange information in a standardised way, using the same vocabulary and format to ensure information is understood by all stakeholders and to ensure interoperability



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    "description": "Freight Amount. The total monetary value of all freight and other service charges fo",
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  },
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    "description": "If this supply chain consignment is insured, this field contains the policy number."
  }
}
...
```





# Interoperability of the eFBL

The eFBL has been in use within the industry since 2022. This open-source solution and is accessible to all freight forwarders worldwide and FIATA ensures its interoperability with various digital initiatives

Mapping eFBL data standards to ensure technical interoperability with various digital initiatives across industry and governments:

- FBL Data Standard mapped to **UN/CEFACT standard** to facilitate global trade and electronic data interchange
- Ongoing work on mapping with the **WCO Data Model** to streamline customs procedures and enhance data consistency across international borders
- Ongoing work to **map eFBL data standards with other stakeholders' digital documents** to create a more unified and interoperable digital ecosystem for logistics and trade.

# FIATA leading supply chain digital transformation



**Collaboration across the supply chain is crucial to foster harmonisation and common standards in an increasingly fragmented world**

**Collaboratively fostering digital standards to ensure a cohesive digital future**

- Advisory Board member of the ICC Digital Standards Initiative
- Founding member of the Future of International Trade (FIT) Alliance, bringing together container and bulk shipping, banking and freight forwarding





# Secure data exchange in a digital ecosystem

The eFBL solution allows secure access to a digital global ecosystem with authenticated trusted stakeholders

- Each document is registered on an immutable ledger (blockchain), protecting it against fraud and allowing stakeholders to verify its validity and the issuer's identity at any time using the dedicated QR code.
- Through the **FIATA Digital Standard**, essential transport data can be exchanged securely by identified stakeholders according to UN data standards, and tracked with a verifiable audit trail using the FIATA Digital Identity

The screenshot displays the FIATA Digital Identity interface. On the left, a document titled "DB7869181466627F1-prod.pdf" is shown, registered on 12 May 2022. A "View" button is present. Below this, a timeline shows the document was registered by FIATA on 12 May 2022 at 10:36:38 pm CEST, and issued by Waters - Stark on 09 Oct 2022 at 12:49:42 am CEST. The address is Anya Burgs, 10248 Sarasota, Pitcairn Islands. The member is FIATA. A note states: "At the time of the document registration, Waters - Stark fulfilled all conditions as specified in the terms and conditions of the FBL". On the right, a verification interface is shown with a "Verify" button and a "Documents uploaded (1)" section containing the document "DB7869181466627F1-prod.pdf".



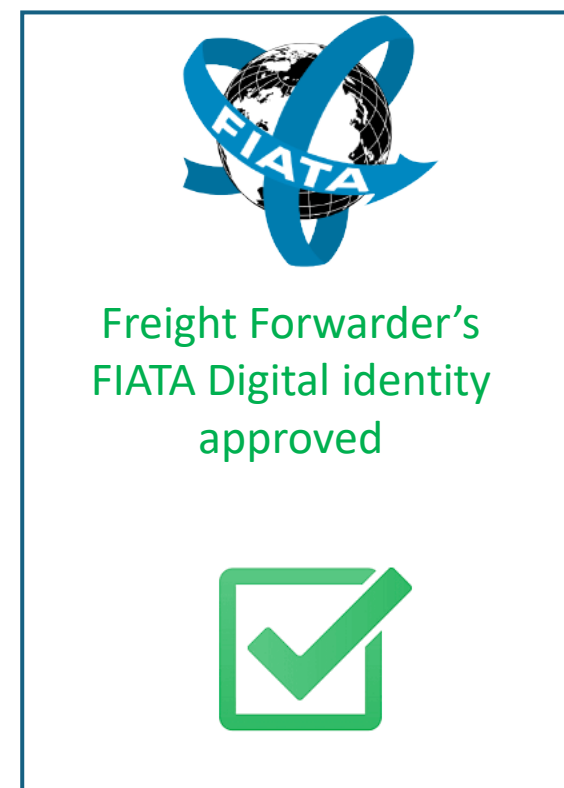
# How does the eFBL work?

The eFBL is accessible through more than 30 software providers across the world and is used every day by freight forwarders all around the world in hybrid format

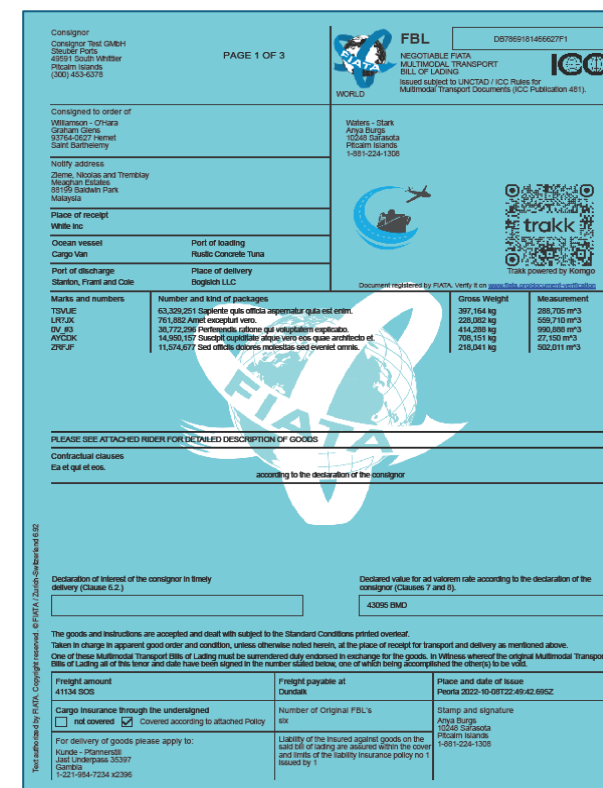
1  
Issue FBLs through TMS  
or  
software provider



2  
FIATA Secured  
Documents Service



3  
FBL protected on  
blockchain





# What are the benefits of using the eFBL?

The main benefits of using eBLs (e.g. the eFBL) include: speed in issuance, protection against fraud, shorter delivery, and efficient handling

## Speed

- Rapid data exchange compared to lengthy paper processes
- Onward transfer of document when using IGP&I approved platform

## Security

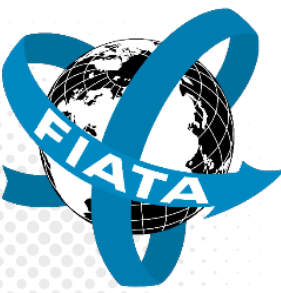
- Secure, immutable data stored on blockchain
- Verification via QR code
- FIATA Digital Identity fosters trust

## Delivery

- Digital data exchange reduces delays at destination for goods release

## Handling

- Digitalisation brings efficiency, cost-savings, accessibility and business continuity
- Possible API integrations to communicate data across supply chain



# Do you want to know more about FIATA?

Visit the FIATA website at [www.fiata.org](http://www.fiata.org)

Check out the latest quarterly [FIATA Review](#) for the latest industry outlook and updates

Write to us on [legal@fiata.org](mailto:legal@fiata.org) if you have outstanding questions!

Stay up-to-date with member and non-member news on the [FIATA LinkedIn](#) profile!





**Do you have any questions?**

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Thank you for  
your attention!



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