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Exercises by Michael A. Riccioli (2015)

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Fill in the blanks

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FREIGHT FORWARDERS

It's **a** term most **of** us have probably heard before, but few know what **a** freight forwarder actually is **and** what they do. Importantly, how can **a** freight forwarder improve transport efficiency **and** save you money?

WHAT IS A FREIGHT FORWARDER?

A freight forwarder **is** a logistics specialist, that helps businesses **and** individuals alike navigate **the** often complex world **of** transport and logistics. Additionally referred **to** as a forwarding agent **or** third party logistics provider (3PL), freight forwarders help **to** arrange the movement **of** goods between **the** shipper (business or party sending **the** goods) and **the** transportation company.

Known **for** their extensive industry **and** regulatory knowledge, freight forwarders specialise **in** transport optimisation, ensuring goods **are** safely delivered **to** schedule, while minimising associated costs. Additional services can include documentation processing, consultancy, customs clearances, freight packing (containerisation), cargo tracking, insurance **and** more.

International freight forwarders commonly utilise **an** agency network (**or** alliance), sourcing local freight forwarders **in** other countries **to** better manage the delivery **of** goods **to** final destination. Variances **in** the local language, government regulations and other considerations specific **to** the region might otherwise hinder importers and exporters who go it alone. **A** good freight forwarder will build strong agency networks across **the** globe, over many years, providing cost-effective seamless delivery, while eliminating stress, resources and time **for** the shipper.

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WHY USE A FREIGHT FORWARDER?

It isn't long before first-time importers **or** exporters realise **the** world of international logistics **is** paved with potential pitfalls that can cost time, resources **and** money. Regulatory obligations, carrier specific needs and industry jargon (amongst other considerations) **are** best handled by a logistics expert **who** can avoid potential fines, secure **the** best transportation rates, provide consultation/advice and increase overall efficiency.

For example, a good independent freight forwarder **is** not locked into a singular contract **with** just one transport company, but can hunt around for **the** best freight rates **from** origin to destination. This reduces costs and improves flexibility, offering a greater variety **of** transport schedules **to** match the customer's needs **and** budget.

A freight forwarder's buying power ensures **a** greater transport cost efficiency, negotiating the best possible rate backed **by** a greater business portfolio. Even larger importers and exporters **can** achieve significant transport cost savings utilising the services **of** a reputable freight forwarder.

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Unplanned transport expenses, **such** as fines, can quickly mount up **and** can cost significant amounts **of** money. Through their experience **and** expertise, a freight forwarder **can** reliably avoid needless fees **and** charges, managing **the** seamless delivery **of** freight without the stress. For **example**, if a consignment arrives **at** port before the consignee (cargo recipient) is ready **to** pick-up, it can accrue terminal detention fees. A freight forwarder will manage **the** handover, coordinating pickup to coincide **with** port delivery.

The processing **of** accompanying freight documentation has a reputation **for** complexity and need **for** accuracy. Errors **can** result in carrier **or** regulatory fines, delivery delays **and** needless stress. Freight forwarders **are** best positioned **to** ensure all documentation **is** correctly processed, in accordance **with** local and international laws.

Other services commonly offered **by** freight forwarders are designed **to** further streamline the movement of freight and can save businesses time, money **and** resources. This extends **to** customs clearances, freight packing, cargo tracking **and** more.

As **an** independent international freight forwarder, Champion Freight offers **the** full array of transport management services **to** ensure **the** reliable delivery of your goods across **the** globe **at** a cost-effective price. Whether you need land, air **or** sea freight delivery, contact Champion Freight for a free no-obligation quote **and** consultation.

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