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Exercises by Michael A. Riccioli (2015)

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Sentence endings
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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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