



# Shipping Agent vs. Freight Forwarder

## Which is the right LTL shipping partner for you?

So you've decided to leverage a freight partner for your LTL freight shipping, but you're not sure whether a freight forwarding company or a freight agent is right for your specific needs. Let's walk through the differences between the two, look at how to choose the right option for your business and explore why leveraging a third-party logistics (3PL) provider that's made up an agent network may be the most beneficial option for your business.

### What does a shipping agent do?

Freight agents do not take physical possession of the goods being shipped, nor are they legally responsible for the shipment. Instead, they offer a higher-level view to keep the shipper informed at all times.

#### Freight agents also:

- Arrange the pickup and delivery of cargo shipments
- Expedite and route movement of shipments
- Analyze documents to determine accurate shipping costs and fees
- Utilize the shipper's bill of lading (BOL)

### What does a freight forwarder do?

Freight forwarders take physical possession of shipments and are therefore legally responsible for the shipment's contents.

#### Freight forwarders also:

- Consolidate shipments with others being delivered to the same destination
- Store and warehouse goods
- Pack and label shipments
- Complete customs documents and prepare shipments for international transport
- Insure all shipments and goods
- Utilize their own BOL



## Which one should I choose?

When deciding to work with a shipping agent the most vital thing to consider is how much hands-on interaction you need from a support partner. Freight forwarders offer more direct assistance, from packing to delivery, whereas freight agents offer more indirect and support from a data-based perspective.

Partnering with an agent-driven 3PL like GlobalTranz offers the best of both worlds. GlobalTranz is comprised of both an internal team of shipping experts and an expansive network of agents working to share our wide array of unique, customized solutions to meet all your shipping needs.



## GlobalTranz: More Than Your Average Freight Broker

We're more than your typical 3PL — we're a team of passionate and experienced independent agents working to leverage myriad resources, unmatched expertise, proven brand power and relationships with more than 85,000 carriers nationwide. As one of the nation's top-notch agent-based 3PL providers, GlobalTranz offers all the tools, resources and shipping expertise to take your business to new heights.

Ready to take your shipping  
to the next level?

GlobalTranz has the tools, resources and expertise to tailor custom shipping solutions to your unique business needs.

Contact an expert today >