

An abbreviation (from Latin brevis, meaning “short”) is a shortened form of a word or phrase. Usually, but not always, it consists of a letter or group of letters taken from the word or phrase. For example, the word abbreviation can itself be represented by the abbreviation abbr. or abbrev. Before the e-mail, telex was the usual way of communication between ships and people/offices onshore. The cost of sending a telex was based on number of words in the message. In an effort to lower these costs, many abbreviations were introduced.

A collection of abbreviations used in shipping.

AA	Always Afloat
AAAA	Always Afloat Always Accessible
AAPA	the American Association of Port Authorities
AARA	Amsterdam-Antwerpen-Rotterdam Area
ABS	American Bureau of Shipping
ABT	About
ADCOM	Address Commission
AFSPS	Arrival First Sea Pilot Station (Norway)
AGW	All Going Well
A/H	Anchor Handling
AHT	AnchorHandling Tug
ALU	ALUminium
ANTHAM	Antwerp-Hamburg range
APS	Arrival Pilot Station

ARAG	Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp-Gent range
ASPW	Any Safe Port in the World
ATDNSHINC	Any Time Day/Night Sundays and Holidays Included
ATUTC	Actually Time Used To Count
A/S	AlongSide
B	Bale (cargo capacity)
BAF	Bunker adjusting factor (freight)
Bb	Bareboat
BBB	Before Breaking Bulk
BDI	Both Dates Inclusive
BE	Both Ends (Load and discharge ports)
BEG	Beginning
BENDS	Both Ends (Load and discharge ports)
BI	Both Inclusive.
BIMCO	The Baltic and International Maritime Conference
BL	Bale
B/N	Booking Note
BOB	Bunker on Board
Box	Everyday term for Container (or boxed vessel)

Br	Breadth
BHP	Brake Horsepower
BMM	British Marine Mutual
Br.Id.	Break load
BRGDS	Best Regards
BROB	Bunkers Remaining on Board
Brt	Gross tonnage
B S S 1/1	Basis 1 port to 1 port
BT	Berth Terms
BV	Bureau Veritas
BWAD	Brackish Water Arrival Draft
CAF	Currency adjusting factor (freight)
CAP	Condition Assessment Programme
Cap	Capacity
CBFT	Cubic Feet
C/C	SSHINC/SSHINC
Ce Ta	Centre Tank
CFT	Cubic Feet
CFR	Cost and Freight
Chem	Chemical

CHOPT	Charterer's Option
CIF	Costs Insurance and Freight
CIP	Carriage and Insurance paid to....
CIRR	Commercial Interest Reference Rate
CLC	Civil Liability Convention
COA	Contract of Affreightment
COACP	Contract of Affreightment Charter Party
COBLDN	Closing of Business LONDON
COGSA	Carriage of Goods by Sea Act
CONT	Container
COW	Crude Oil Washing
C/P	Charter Party
CPT	Carriage Paid To
CPD	Charterers Pay Dues
CQD	Customary Quick Despatch
COD	Cash on Delivery
COP	Custom of Port
CR	Current Rate
Cr	Crane
CROB	Cargo Remaining Onboard

CST	Centistoke
CUFT	Cubic Feet
Cy	Cylinders
C/X	SSHINC / SSHEX
D/A	Disbursement Account
DAF	Delivered at Frontier
DAP	Days All Purposes (Total days for loading and disch.)
Dbl	Double
DBL SKIN	Double Skinned
DC	Discharge Capacity
DDP/(U)	Delivered Duty Paid (Unpaid)
DELY	Delivery
DEM	Demurrage
DES	Delivered Ex Ship
DEQ	Delivered Ex Quay
DESP	Despatch
DHDATSBE	Despatch Half Demurrage on All Time Saved Both Ends
DHDWTSBE	Despatch Half Demurrage on Working Time Saved Both Ends

DK	Deck
DLOSP	Dropping Last Outwards Sea Pilot (Norway)
DNV	Det Norske Veritas
DO	Diesel Oil
DOLSP	Dropping Off Last Sea Pilot (Norway)
DOP	Dropping Outward Pilot
DOT	Department of Transport
DP	Dynamic Positioning
DPT	Depth
DSV	Diving System
DYNPOS	Dynamic Positioning
E0	Unattended engine room
EC	East Coast
EIU	Even If Used.
ETA	Expected Time of Arrival
ETC	Expected Time of Completion
ETD	Expected Time of Departure
Eth	Ethylene
ETS	Expected Time of Sailing
EXCL	Exclusive

EXW	EX Works
FA	Free Alongside
FAC	Fast as Can
FAS	Free Alongside Ship
FCA	Free Carrier
FD	Free Despatch
FDD	Freight Demurrage Dead freight
F. DESP (FD)	Free Despatch
F.DIS	Free Discharge
FDEDANRSAOCLONL	Freight Deemed Earned Discount less & Non-Refundable Ship and Or Cargo Lost or Not Lost
FHEX	Friday Holidays Excluded. (Muslim Countries)
FHINC	Friday Holidays Included. (Muslim Countries)
FiFI	Fire Fighting
FIO	Free in and Out
FIOST	Free in and Out Stowed and Trimmed
FIOT	Free in and Out Trimmed
FIT	Free in Trimmed
FIW	Free in Wagon

FM	From
FMC	Federal Maritime Commission
FMS	Fathoms
F/N	Fixing Note
FO	For Orders
FO (IFO)	Fuel Oil
FOB	Free on Board
FOG	For Our Guidance
FOR	Free on Rail
FOQ	Free on Quay
FOT	Free on Truck
FOW	First Open Water
FOW	Free on Wharf
Fr. wa.	Freshwater
Free Ex Ins	FREE of any Extra Insurance (Owners)
FPSO	Floating Production Storage and Offloading unit
FTD	Fitted
FWAD	Freshwater Arrival Draft
FWDD	Fresh Water Departure Draft
FYG	For Your Guidance

FYI	For Your Information
G	Grain (cargo capacity)
GA	General Average
GASBEND	Good and Safe (Port) Both ENDS
GENS	Generals or general cargo
GEOROT	Geographical Rotation
GL	Germanischer Lloyd
GLESS	Gearless
GO	Gas Oil
GNS	German North Sea
GR	Grain
GMDSS	Global Maritime Distress Safety System
GRD	Geared
GTEE	Guarantee
HA	Hatch
HDLTSBENDS	Half Despatch Lay Time Saved Both Ends
HBF	Harmless Bulk Fertilizer
HDWTS	Half Demurrage Weather Time Saved
HELDK	Helicopter Deck
HHDW	Handy Heavy d.w. (scrap)

HMS	Heavy Metal Scraps
HO	Cargo Hold
HR	Hour
HRS	Hours
HV	Heavy
HVFL	Heavy Fuel
HW	High Water
IFO	Intermediate Fuel Oil
IMDG	International Maritime Dangerous Code
IU	If Used
IMO	International Maritime Organisation.
ISM(C)	International Safety Management Code
IUHTAUTC	If Used, Half Time Actually to Count
KMC	Cargo Refrigerating System
KN	Knots
KTM	Keel To Top of Mast
I.W.L.	Institute Warranty Limits
LASH	Light Aboard Ship
LAT	Latitude
LAYCAN	Lay day cancelling date

LC	Loading Capacity
LCR	Lowest Current Rate
LDN	Laden
LGT	Lengthened
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LOA	Length Over All
LOF	Lloyd's Open Form
Lo Ho	Lower Hold
LOI	Letter of Indemnity.
LOLO	Lift on Lift Off ship
LOW	Last Open Water
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LPS	Lump Sum
LR	Lloyds Register of Shipping
LR	Large Range
L.S.	Lump Sum.
LSD	Lashed Secured Dunnage
L.T.	Liner Terms
LT (LTONS)	Long Tons
LW	Low Water

MB	Merchant Broker
MDO (DO)	Marine Diesel Oil
MDWT	Metric Deadweight tons
MIN/MAX	Minimum/Maximum (cargo quantity)
MO	Managing Owner
MODU	Mobile Offshore Drilling Units
MOLCHOP	More or Less Charterers Option
MOLOO	Owners (Masters) Option
MON	Monitors (fire)
MOT	Ministry of Transport
MOT	Monthly Overtime
MR	Medium Range
m/r	Mates receipt
MT	Metric Tonnes
MTONS	Metric Tonnes
NAABSA	Not Always Afloat But Safely Aground
NCB	National Cargo Bureau
NCS	Norwegian Continental Shelf
N.E.	Not East of
NIS	Norwegian International Ships register

NK	Nippon Kaiji Kyokai
N.N.	Not North of
NMD	Norwegian Maritime Directorate
NOR	Notice of Readiness
N.S	Not South of
N.W	Not West of
o.a.	Overall
OA	Over Aged
OBO	Oil Bulk Ore
OILREC	Oil Recovery
ONW	Onwards
OO	Owners Option
OP	Operator
OPA 90	The US Oil Pollution Act of 1990
OSH	Open Shelter deck
OT	On Truck
OW	Owners
P & I	Protection & Indemnity
P.P.	Perpendicular
Pax	Passenger Vessel

PDPR	Per Day Pro-Rata
P/E	Purchase Enquiry
PGH	Per Geared Hatch
PHPD	Per Hatch Per Day
POT (able)	Portable water
PPT	Prompt
PSV	Platform Supply Vessel
PU	Pumps
PWH	Per Workable Hatch
PWWD	Per Weather Working day
REEF	Refrigerated
RGDS	Regards
RGE	Range
RNR	Rate Not Reported
ROB	Remaining on Board
ROC	Reference Our Cable.... (date)
RORO	Roll on Roll Off ship
ROTLX	Reference Our Telex ...(date)
RPM	Revs. Per Minute
RYC	Reference Your Cable...(date)

RYTLX	Reference Your Telex...(date)
S.THR.	Side Thruster
SBM	Soya Bean Meal
SATSHEX	Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays Excepted
SATSHINC	Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays Included
SBS	Safe Berth
SBT	Segregated Ballast Tanks
SELFDISCH	Self-Discharger
SF	Superficial Feet
SHEX	Sundays, Holidays Excepted
SHINC	Sundays, Holidays Included
SID	Single Deck
SLPTA	Slop Tanks
SOF	Statement of Facts.
SOM	Swedish Official Measure
SP	Safe Ports
SPB	St. Petersburg
S/R B/L	Signing and Releasing Bill(s) of Lading
SS and C	Same Sea and Country coast
SSHEX	Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays Excepted

SSHINC	Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays Included
ST	Short Tons.
STEM	Subject to Enough Merchandise
SWAD	Saltwater Arrival Draft
SWDD	Saltwater Departure Draft
TA	Tanks
TBN	To Be Named
TBR	To Be Renamed
TC	(T/C) Time Charter
TCT	Time Charter Trip
TCP	Time Charter Party
TEU	Standard 20' container
THC	Terminal Handling Cost
THR	Thruster
TIP	Taking Inward Pilot
TL	Total Loss
TOBENA	To Be Named
TOP	Taking Outward Pilot
TS	Tons
TTL	Total

UKCS	United Kingdom Continental Shelf
ULCC	Ultra Large Crude Carrier
USC	Unless Sooner Commenced
UU	Unless Used
UIIWCTAUTC	Unless Used in Which Case Time Actually Used to Count.
VEG	Vegetable oil
VLCC	Very Large Crude Carrier
VPD	Vessel Pay Dues
VSL	Vessel
WA	Water
WC	West Coast
WCCON	Whether Custom Cleared or Not
WIBON	Whether in Berth or Not
WIFPON	Whether in Free Plastique Or Not
WIPON	Whether in Port or Not
WITA	Wing Tank
WLTOHC	Waterline-TO-Hatch Coaming (distance)
WOG	Without Guarantee.
Working Copy	(Copy of Charter Party – not being signed)

and may contain unchecked errors

WP	Weather Permitting
WRD	Wide Range Distillate
WRIC	Wire Rods in Coils
WWD	Weather Working Days
WWR	When, Where Ready
X/C	SSHEX / SSHINC
X/X	SSHEX / SSHEX
YAR	York Antwerp Rules
YC	Your Cable