

WHAT IS A FORWARDER?

An International Freight Forwarder assembles all details that must be coordinated for American products to be shipped to foreign buyers in the course of our nation's international trade.

They are both small and large firms that have been licensed by the Federal Maritime Commission as fit, willing and able to provide the expert know-how and experience needed to arrange for movement of cargo from inland points to foreign destinations. Cargo is moved through the services of a Steamship line chosen through the best combination of timely transit time, efficiency, service and at the best cost to the exporter.

Like M.E. Dey, a modern Freight Forwarder must offer complete services for Exporters who choose to use Air freight as part of their own Customer service effort. M.E. Dey believes that every Freight Forwarder must provide the same due diligence and adherence to customer service goals on air freight exports as they do on ocean exports.

Acting as agent of the exporter, the Forwarder must be able to provide advice on the myriad of U.S. government regulations affecting foreign trade, as well as the import rules of various foreign countries. He must have a detailed knowledge of his ports and their facilities and be able to advise the shipper as to the best port of shipment for the best transit time. He prepares and/or checks on various shipping documents and necessary licenses, books or confirms space on the ocean vessel, arranges transportation of cargo to shipside by rail or truck and arranges cargo insurance on behalf of the exporter. The forwarder might even arrange to pay ocean freight for his principal and in general orchestrates the entire movement of goods from point of origin to seaboard and beyond in the most efficient and cost-saving manner.

The Freight Forwarder must have an intimate knowledge of transportation techniques, both their possibilities and their limitations, and has to know how to advise and act in the best interests of his exporter principal. The Freight Forwarder depends on a close partnership with his Exporting Customer in order to maximize his service potential and to assist the exporter in avoiding regulatory, financial and Customer service pitfalls. In short, the Freight Forwarder must depend on this partnership as a conduit to the Exports for his valuable advice, guidance and experience. Often called the "Architect of Transport," the Forwarder performs an essential role in America's constantly growing foreign trade.