

Transport

Main forms of transport

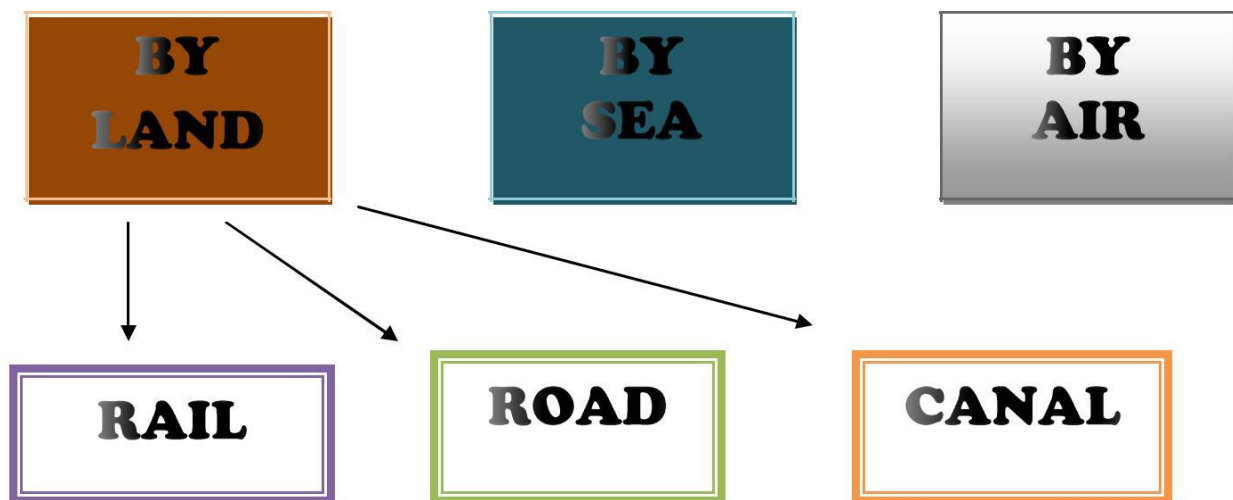
There are several different methods of transporting goods and the means chosen will depend on a variety of factors, including:

- **cost**
- **time**
- **distance**
- **security**
- **nature and value of the goods**
- **size and weight of the goods.**

Speed is very important when *perishable* goods are concerned or when delivery is particularly urgent. *Boxes* and *small packages* can be sent by parcel post or fast delivery service through the Post Office, though today there are many private delivery companies which offer express courier services.

The increasing use of **containers** greatly facilitates the carriage of goods over long distances and makes transshipment from one means of transport to another much easier. Containers are in fact large metal cases of a standard size which can be loaded on lorries, trains and ships.

In general terms, we can classify transport into **three main branches**:



The main carriers or organizations specializing in the transportation of goods include:

- **shipping and forwarding agents**
- **freight companies**
- **couriers**
- **road hauliers**
- **railway companies**
- **shipping companies**
- **airlines.**

Land transport

Rail transport

Railways were pioneered in Britain and the Stockton-Darlington Railway, opened in 1825, was the first passenger railway in the world to be worked by steam power; in the mid-1990s many passenger and freight services began to be franchised or sold to *private companies*. Privatization of the railway services was completed in 1997, *excluding London Transport*, most railway services in Britain are now in private hands.

The document used in rail transport is the **consignment note** which contains:

- ☐ a description of the goods
- ☐ the number of the packages
- ☐ the name and address of the consignor
- ☐ the name and address of the consignee
- ☐ the names of the stations
- ☐ the freight charged.

ADVANTAGES: rail transport is particularly suitable for heavy goods, over long distances, it is faster and cheaper than other forms of transport. It is not affected by traffic congestion or bad weather and does not pollute.

DISADVANTAGES: compared to road transport, rail transport is slower and uneconomical over short distances and for small consignments; is not flexible and cannot deliver door-to-door.

Road transport

Road transport has become highly competitive with railways as a result of road improvements and the construction of motorways, trunk roads and bypasses round the busiest towns. This creates problems as regards **traffic congestion** and **air pollution**, and 2003 directive of EU tried to tackle this issue by promoting the use of methane and biofuels and by fostering research into clean energy sources.

The document used in road transport is the consignment note as in rail transport, and when the goods are delivered the consignee signs a delivery note, by which he relieves the carrier of all responsibility.

The road **consignment note** is usually completed by the carrier and contains:

- ☐ a description of the goods
- ☐ the number of packages or containers
- ☐ the name and address of the consignor
- ☐ the name and address of the carrier
- ☐ the name and address of the consignee
- ☐ the place where the goods have to be collected
- ☐ the place where the goods have to be delivered.

ADVANTAGES: road transport is exceptionally flexible, can provide a door-to-door service and is generally faster and cheaper over short distances.

DISADVANTAGES: road traffic and bad weather can cause delays. Over long distances road haulage may be slower than the railway. Road traffic is also a major cause of pollution.

Canal transport

In Britain there is a vast network of canals. Since the introduction of railways and the development of road transport, the canals have been of lesser importance. Canal transport, however, is still the cheapest means of transporting **heavy, bulky, non-perishable goods** such as coal, **cement, sand** and **timber**.

Sea transport

Britain's island situation and its history as an industrial and trading country, have led to the growth of an enormous shipping industry which is essential for the economic life of the country.

Goods transported by sea may be carried either in **liners** or in **tramps**.

Liners are ships carrying passengers and commercial cargoes. They operate over regular routes according to a prearranged timetable and offer several **advantages** to shippers:

- ☐ a regular services
- ☐ a scheduled freight charges
- ☐ freedom to ship in small or large consignments
- ☐ speedy transport.

Tramps are chartered ships which do not usually carry passengers, but which sail when and where they obtain a cargo. They do not operate over regular routes and the owner of the tramp and the shipper agree on the rates by bargaining.

The price charged for carrying goods by sea is called **freight**. When a shipowner agrees to carry a cargo for a shipper, they enter into a contract known as contract of affreightment. This contract may be evidence by either a **bill of lading** or a **charter party**.

Bill of lading

A bill of lading is a *contract between shipper and ship-owner* (or shipping company) for the transport of goods in liners. This document specifies:

- ☐ the name of the shipper
- ☐ the date and place of shipment
- ☐ the name and destination of the vessel
- ☐ the description, quality and destination of the goods
- ☐ the freight that is to be paid.

There are a two types of bill of lading:

- ☐ a **clean bill of lading**, which indicates that the goods have been received on board in good condition;
- ☐ a **foul bill of lading**, which indicates that certain specified goods have not been loaded in good condition.

Charter party

When goods are carried in tramps, a charter party is used. It is a *document in which a shipowner agrees to hire out a ship*, or a part of it, against payment of a sum of money known as freight.

There are two kinds of charter party:

- ☐ **time charter**, which is used when a tramp is engaged for a specified period of time;
- ☐ **voyage charter**, which is drawn up when a vessel needs to be chartered for one specific voyage.

Air transport

The airline industry is continuing to develop to meet the increasing demand for air travel, particularly international travel. By far the major part of air transport, however, is still concerned with *passenger traffic*, even though in more recent years there has been a considerable increase in air cargo traffic as well, especially for the carriage of certain types of good.

In general term, air transport can be effected through:

- ☐ scheduled flights
- ☐ charter flights.

As far as **cargo** is concerned, air transport is most suitable for the carriage of **perishable goods, live animals, medicinal and pharmaceutical products**, and goods of **high value** such as **jewellery, high-class fashion goods, scientific instruments**, etc.

Air freight rates are determined by the class of goods carried, their value, bulk and weight and the country destination.

The great advantage of air transport is obviously *speed*, but the freight rates charged are still too high for commodities generally.

The document used in air transport is the **air waybill**.

Transport by pipeline

A pipeline is a series of pipes that are usually laid underground or below the sea bed for carrying certain kinds of products, particularly **oil, natural gas** and **petrol**, over long distances.

Pipelines avoid the need for tankers to transport these products from the place where they are extracted or produced to a main distribution centre.

In Britain, submarine pipelines are particularly important for the transport of oil and natural gas from the oilfields in the North Sea to onshore terminals in Scotland and Northern England.