

Goodbye Paper, Hello Digital!

Save
Costs

Improve
Security

Enhance
Efficiency



**Get Ready For The Future of Shipping
with Electronic Bills of Lading**

 **Hapag-Lloyd**



eBL

About the

Electronic Bill of Lading

For many years, the shipping industry took a backseat when it comes to digitalization. This is especially true for one of the most important documents in trading: The Bill of Lading, short BL. Can you imagine that this document, that contains all important information about your shipment, sometimes had to be amended and sent to different parties across the globe physically? This did not only mean high courier costs but also long waiting times and inefficiencies along the process.

It is truly astonishing that this vital piece of information did not get a digital alternative before. Thankfully, with the current developments around AI, IoT and an increased availability of digital solutions around the globe, shipping has finally taken a step towards the future in the form of the electronic Bill of Lading, short eBL.

eBLs hold the same legal weight as traditional paper BLs while offering advantages only digital processes can offer: lower or no costs, instant transfer, environmental benefits and unmatched security thanks to advanced blockchain technology.

Over the next few pages, you will get an overview into the reasons why the shipping industry is committed to go paperless by 2030; what the advantages of eBLs truly are for you and how you can get started using them now to instantly create value for your shipping affairs.



Our Commitment

“We are committed to converting 50% of original bill of lading activities to digital within five years, and 100% by 2030 in our respective carrier organizations. This represents a significant change for our industry, and we do not take this commitment lightly. We are convinced that the benefits it will bring to customers and global trade are too important to ignore. We ask that all parties involved – shippers, forwarders, governments, financial institutions, and insurance agencies – work together to make this commitment a reality.”

Rolf Habben Jansen
CEO of Hapag-Lloyd
in 2022

Why eBLs?

Think about it: Would you rather send a document via physical mail or digitally via e-mail? The answer is most probably e-mail, since it is much quicker, easier and less risky.

The same benefits apply to using eBL instead of the traditional paper BL. In addition to fewer costs and an improved impact on the environment, eBLs also come with less friction along the entire process of getting your BL up and running.

TRADITIONAL BL PROCESS



NEW EBL PROCESS



Secure Blockchain Technology

- Instant Transfer of Ownership
- Enhanced Security
- Real-Time Tracking
- Ease of Access
- Hassle-Free Adjustments

Did you know?



eBLs save **\$6.5 Billion*** in direct costs across the industry.

*Source: McKinsey, The multi-billion-dollar paper jam: Unlocking trade by digitalizing documentation | October 4, 2022

COMPARISON

	eBL	Paper BL	Seaway Bill	Telex
Cost	☑ Potentially Low ...due to reduced paperwork and faster processing	✗ High ...with costs associated with printing, courier services, and delays	Low ...as there is no need for printing or sending physical documents	Moderate ...savings on courier costs, but potential fees for telex communication
Courier/Delivery Cost	Zero	High	Zero	Low
Transfer of Ownership	☑ Yes ...can be transferred electronically to third parties	☑ Yes ...ownership is transferred through endorsement and delivery of the physical document	No ...does not transfer ownership; goods are delivered to the named consignee	No ...does not transfer ownership; release instructions are issued to the port once original documents are surrendered
Speed of Processing	☑ Faster ...real-time updates and transfers	✗ Slow ...due to the physical handling of documents	Faster ...as no original document is needed	Moderate ...requires surrender of physical documents at origin
Security	☑ High ...with encryption and authentication technologies	✗ Medium ...can be lost, stolen, or forged	Medium ...depends on trust level between shipper and consignee	Medium ...as security depends on the surrender of physical documents at origin
Risk of Loss or Delay	☑ Minimal ...no physical documents are involved	✗ High ...physical documents can be lost or delayed in transit	Minimal ...no originals are issued	Lower ...delay can occur if the original documents are not surrendered promptly
Use Case	Suitable for parties seeking faster, secure, and paperless transactions	Only in cases where eBL is not supported by either origin or destination countries, or by involved banks	Only when trust level between shipper and consignee is high	Only when a switch from OBL to paperless is needed after vessel departure
Processing Time	Instant (hours/minutes)	7 to 10 days	1 to 3 days	3 to 5 days
Fraud Prevention	Low risk (blockchain/secure)	High risk (paper fraud)	Limited risk	Moderate risk
Environmental Impact	Zero (paperless)	High (tons of paper used)	Zero (paperless)	High (tons of paper used)



How to Get Started with eBLs

After hearing about all of the advantages of eBLs you may be wondering: How can I adapt the usage of eBLs in my daily work? It's a lot easier than you think—there's no need to go through hours of training.

All you need is an account in our Online Business Suite and register for one of our partners Wave BL or IQAX. From here, using eBLs is pretty easy.

1.

Register in our Online Business Suite and one of our trusted partners Wave BL or IQAX.

wave BL
IQAX

2.

Indicate in your Shipping Instructions sent to Hapag-Lloyd that an eBL is required for the shipment.

3.

Receive your eBL on the agreed platform once its due. On your chosen platform, you can find all other options. Use our BL Draft Approval tool to easily amend or approve your eBL.



The Hapag-Lloyd Customer Service team can also provide guidance in selecting the right eBL solution that suits your needs. Demo sessions can also be booked directly through the respective websites.



Contact Us

Reach out to
your local
Hapag-Lloyd
Customer
Service Team:



www.hapag-lloyd.com

