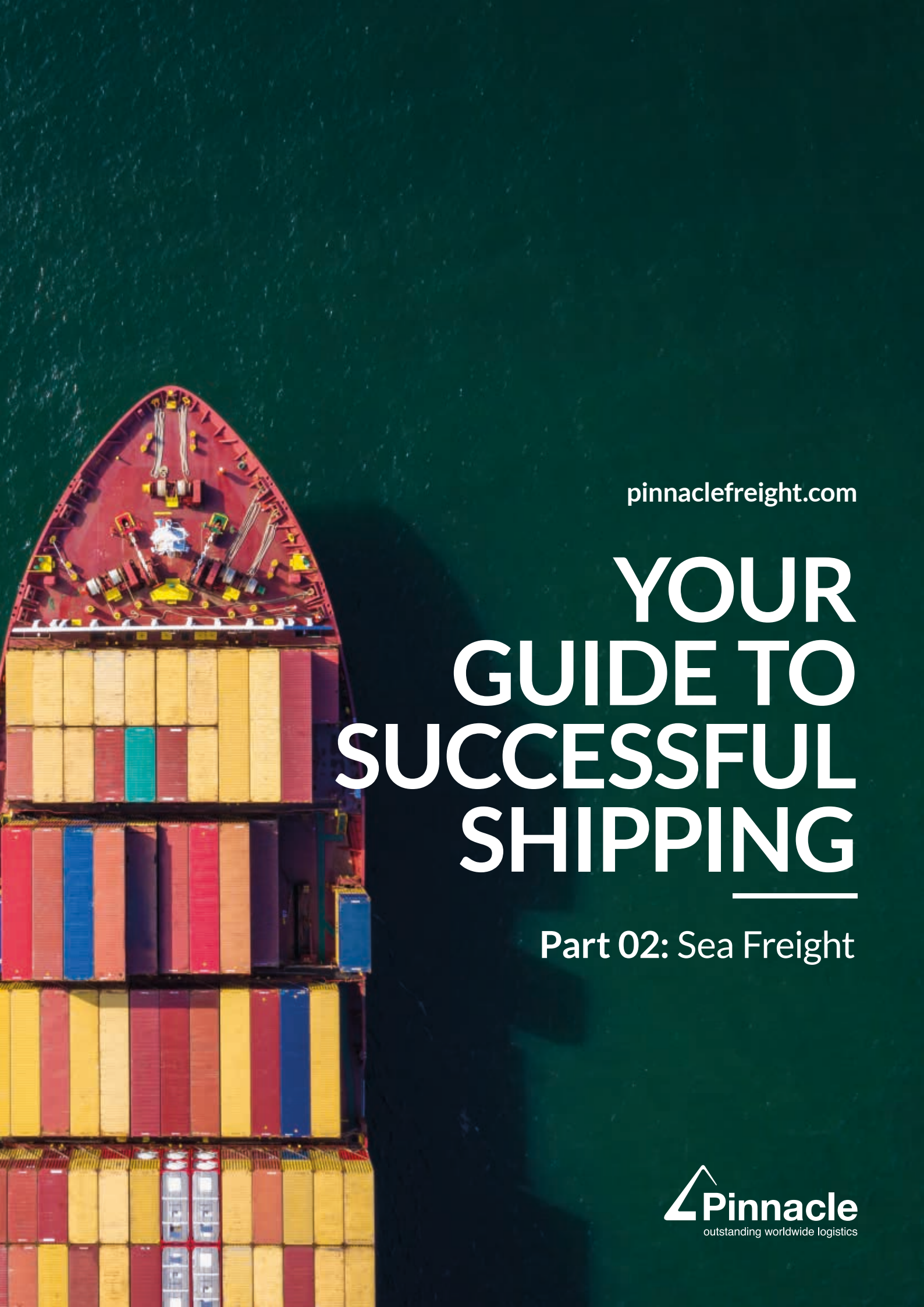




pinnaclefreight.com

YOUR GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL SHIPPING

Part 02: Sea Freight

02: Sea Freight

Sea Freight is a popular method of importing and exporting goods and commodities, particularly consumer goods moving long distances. It is a cost effective method of shipping larger volumes of cargo.



Since 1972 our family run business has been delivering outstanding worldwide logistics.

Our business is progressive, embracing the latest systems, technology and best practice.

This approach to business combined with family values and a focus on delivering outstanding service has enabled Pinnacle to evolve and succeed for almost half a century.

This guide has been crafted by our expert team for your reference, with basic to expert information for importers and exporters.

Knowledge. Understanding. Expertise.

There are two options for using shipping containers to transport your cargo via Sea Freight; one is **LCL (Less than container load)** and the other is **FCL (Full container load)**. Below we layout key information and explain some of the key considerations, advantages and disadvantages of using either option.

Recommended volumes

1 – 18cbm ship as LCL

18 – 30cbm ship as 20' container

35 – 60cbm ship as 40' container

60 – 70cbm ship as 40' HC

CBM = Length x Width x Height (m)
(CBM = Cubic Metre)

Pinnacle offer a Load Planning Service, which can easily help you to calculate your loads, maximise the capacity of your cargo making your Sea Freight as cost effective and efficient as possible. Contact us any time for advice and assistance.

FCL

Shipping FCL does not mean you need to have enough cargo to fill an entire container you may ship a partially filled container as FCL.

Benefits of FCL

- Remains sealed from shipper's door to place of delivery, unless inspected by customs
- Less likely to be damaged, as not loaded with other cargo and is not handled repeatedly en route

Benefits of FCL, cont....

- Quicker transit time compared to LCL, as the container is collected/delivered directly to/from the port, rather than being combined with other cargo at a consolidation warehouse

LCL or Consolidation (Share a Container)

When shipping LCL, cargo is consolidated with other shippers' goods to fill a container. The price of your shipment is determined based on volume and weight.

Benefits of LCL

- Reduced costs for smaller size shipments compared to sending FCL as charges are based on weight and cubic metre
- Can be delivered on smaller vehicles if access to delivery destination is limited
- Off-loading using tail-lift vehicles to assist upon delivery

Charges are calculated on weight or measure (1000kg = 1cbm, whichever is greater)

Documentation required for Sea Freight includes

- Commercial invoice
- Packing list
- Preference certificate / licences
- B/L (Bill of Lading)
- VGM – Verified Gross Mass Certificate

Telex Release/Express release and Original B/L

Telex Release

A Telex Release is a message that is sent by the agent or shipping line from origin to their agent or office at destination to acknowledge that the shipper has surrendered the Original Bill of Lading that has been issued to them. This then allows the cargo to be released to the consignee without having to physically present the Original B/L prior to release.

Express Release

An Express Release B/L means that no Original B/Ls were issued, or requested to be issued, when the shipper's instructions were sent to the shipping line. Express Release is typically requested when the shipper does not need to hold onto the Original B/L to secure payment for the cargo. The shipper and consignee may be related companies, or have a strong business relationship in these scenarios. Since no Original B/Ls were created, nothing has to be mailed to destination for cargo release.

Original B/L

If working with an Original Bill of Lading, this will need to be presented to Pinnacle in order for the consignee to be able to receive the merchandise at destination. This process also allows the shipper to hold the B/L until payment has been received or used for bank release/letter of credit.

Standard container sizes

20' Standard



INSIDE LENGTH: 5.895 m
INSIDE WIDTH: 2.350 m
INSIDE HEIGHT: 2.392 m
DOOR WIDTH: 2.340 m
DOOR HEIGHT: 2.292 m
CAPACITY: 33 m³
TARE WEIGHT: 2230 Kgs
MAX CARGO WEIGHT: 28230 Kgs

40' Standard



INSIDE LENGTH: 12.029 m
INSIDE WIDTH: 2.350 m
INSIDE HEIGHT: 2.392 m
DOOR WIDTH: 2.340 m
DOOR HEIGHT: 2.292 m
CAPACITY: 67 m³
TARE WEIGHT: 3780 Kgs
MAX CARGO WEIGHT: 26700 Kgs

40' High-Cube



INSIDE LENGTH: 12.024 m
INSIDE WIDTH: 2.350 m
INSIDE HEIGHT: 2.697 m
DOOR WIDTH: 2.340 m
DOOR HEIGHT: 2.597 m
CAPACITY: 76 m³
TARE WEIGHT: 4020 Kgs
MAX CARGO WEIGHT: 26460 Kgs

*Above container sizes are to be used as a guide only, as shipping container sizes will vary according to provider.

Special Cargo Containers

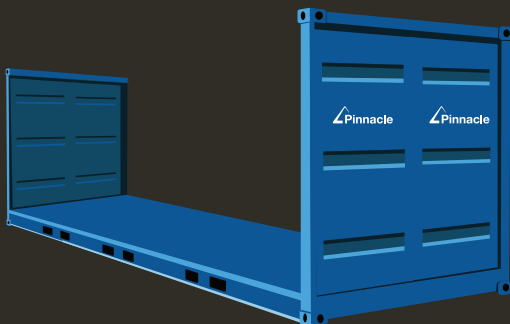


20' / 40' / 40HC Open top containers

Open top containers are designed for cargo that is too tall, unusually shaped or requires loading from above, making it unsuitable for standard dry containers. Rather than a fixed steel roof, open top containers use a removable tarpaulin supported by roof bows, allowing greater flexibility during loading while still protecting the cargo in transit.

Typical cargo includes:

- Industrial machinery
- Large pumps or compressors
- Construction components
- Cargo requiring top loading



20' / 40' Flatrack containers with and without collapsible sides

Flatrack containers are designed for cargo that cannot be transported in standard dry containers due to its size, shape or weight. With open sides, no roof and either fixed or collapsible end walls, flatracks allow maximum loading flexibility while maintaining strong structural support.

Typical cargo includes:

- Industrial machinery
- Power generators
- Oversized fabrication units
- Transformers and large electrical equipment
- Mining equipment
- Large engine blocks or turbines



20' / 40' Refrigerated containers

Refrigerated containers, commonly known as reefers, are used to transport cargo that must be kept at a stable temperature throughout transit. They provide active cooling and heating, allowing precise temperature control to protect sensitive goods across long distances.

Typical cargo includes:

- Vaccines
- Medical samples
- Laboratory materials
- Clinical trial supplies
- Temperature sensitive chemicals



PIFtrack is Pinnacle's Global Track & Trace platform.

Designed to give you complete visibility of your shipments from start to finish. Simple to use and accessible around the clock, it keeps you informed, connected, and in control at every stage of the journey.

When you ship with Pinnacle, PIFtrack brings all your shipment information into one intuitive platform. Whether you need a quick status update or detailed reporting, everything you need is available in real time, whenever you need it.

With 24/7 access, you can track your shipments as they move, receive live event and shipment updates, and view the latest documentation as it becomes available. Scheduled bespoke reports can also be tailored to your requirements, giving you clear, reliable insight without the need to chase information.

From departure to final delivery, PIFtrack provides a transparent view of your logistics operation, supporting smarter decisions, proactive planning, and complete peace of mind.

PIFtrack user guides

These short video guides show how to use PIFtrack to track and manage your shipments. Go to YouTube and search for PIFtrack, or click the image link below.



Contact Pinnacle for more information or advice regarding your Sea Freight requirements +44 (0) 845 6216 111 enquiry@pif.co.uk

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Do not hesitate to call or email one of
our experts if you have any queries.

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