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Logistics and trade organisations

Who sets the rules, who represents the sector, where to find sources? 23 organisations from Türkiye and around the world.

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SHORT ANSWER

Rules for logistics and international trade are drafted by international bodies such as the ICC, WCO, IMO, UNECE and UNCITRAL; in Türkiye they are applied by the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. The sector is represented by organisations such as UTİKAD (forwarders), UND (international road hauliers), the İMEAK Chamber of Shipping (maritime) and TİM (exporters).

Why it matters

To read the original text of a rule, find the current version of a document or learn the sector's view on an issue, you need to go to the right organisation. They fall broadly into three groups:

- **Public bodies that make and apply rules:** ministries and international organisations such as the WCO, IMO and UNECE.
- **Private bodies that publish rules and standards:** such as the ICC, BIMCO, FIATA and DCSA.
- **Associations and chambers that represent the sector:** such as UTİKAD, UND, the İMEAK Chamber of Shipping and TİM.

Organisation guide

Organisation	Area	What it does
Turkish Ministry of Trade	Türkiye	Foreign trade policy, customs procedures, import controls and transit.
Turkish Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure	Türkiye	Road, sea, rail and air transport regulation; transport authorisation certificates.
Turkish Exporters Assembly (TİM)	Türkiye	Umbrella body of the exporters' associations. Membership of the relevant association is mandatory for exporters in Türkiye.
UTİKAD	Türkiye	Association of International Forwarding and Logistics Service Providers; represents forwarders and logistics companies.

Organisation	Area	What it does
UND — International Transporters' Association	Türkiye	Represents international road hauliers; publishes road transport statistics and reports.
Chamber of Shipping (İMEAK DTO)	Türkiye	Professional chamber of the maritime sector: shipowners, agents, ports and shipping companies.
TÜRKLİM — Port Operators Association of Türkiye	Türkiye	Represents port operators; publishes port sector reports.
International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)	Trade and customs	Publisher of trade rules such as Incoterms, UCP 600 and URDG 758.
World Customs Organization (WCO)	Trade and customs	Harmonized System, SAFE Framework and customs standards.
World Trade Organization (WTO)	Trade and customs	Multilateral trade rules and the Trade Facilitation Agreement.
UNCITRAL	Trade and customs	UN Commission on International Trade Law; Hamburg and Rotterdam Rules and MLETR.
UNECE	Trade and customs	UN home of transport and trade instruments such as CMR, TIR, ADR and UN/LOCODE.
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	Shipping	SOLAS, MARPOL, the IMDG Code and maritime safety rules.
BIMCO	Shipping	Shipowners' association; publisher of standard charter party and bill of lading forms such as GENCON.
DCSA	Shipping	Digital standards for container lines: electronic bills of lading, tracking, vessel schedules.
International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)	Shipping	The principal international trade association for shipowners.
BIC	Shipping	Maintains the international register of container owner (BIC) codes.
FIATA	Forwarding and road	International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations; publisher of forwarder documents such as the FBL.
IRU	Forwarding and road	International Road Transport Union; manages the TIR guarantee chain.
IATA	Forwarding and road	Airline association; air cargo standards and the Dangerous Goods Regulations.
International Group of P&I Clubs	Insurance and risk	Umbrella of the P&I clubs insuring shipowners' third-party liabilities; recommends standard LOI forms.
TT Club	Insurance and risk	Insurance for transport and logistics operators; cargo safety and theft reports.
IUMI	Insurance and risk	International Union of Marine Insurance; marine and cargo insurance statistics.

For students and newcomers

- For the **original text of regulations**, rely on the websites of ministries and international bodies; second-hand summaries can go out of date.
- For **sector reports and statistics**, look at publications from organisations such as TİM, UND and TÜRKLİM.
- For **professional training and certificates**, follow the training pages of the sector associations.
- **Standard documents and contract forms** (such as the FBL or GENCON) should only be obtained from the publishing organisation; old or altered copies are risky.

Test yourself

1. Which organisation publishes the Incoterms rules? *(Answer: The International Chamber of Commerce, ICC.)*
2. Which is the umbrella body for freight forwarders internationally? *(Answer: FIATA.)*
3. Who keeps the international register of container owner codes? *(Answer: BIC.)*

Frequently asked questions

Which organisation represents freight forwarders in Türkiye?

The Association of International Forwarding and Logistics Service Providers (UTİKAD) represents forwarders and logistics companies in Türkiye. Internationally, the umbrella body for forwarders is FIATA.

Is membership of an exporters' association mandatory in Türkiye?

Yes. Under Law No. 5910, exporters must be members of the relevant exporters' association. The umbrella body of the associations is the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TİM).

What is a P&I club?

A mutual association through which shipowners and carriers insure their liabilities to third parties (such as cargo damage, pollution and crew). The major clubs belong to the International Group of P&I Clubs.

SOURCES

Law No. 5910 on the Turkish Exporters Assembly and exporters' associations, Art. 4 (Alomaliye, in Turkish) — https://alomaliye.com/2009/07/03/5910-sayili-kanun-turkiye-ihracatcilar/
Official websites are linked from each organisation's name in the list below

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