



# DCSA standards-based Electronic Bill of Lading API

## Simplifying international trade, from end to end

Top 3 ways the DCSA standards-based electronic bill of lading (eBL) API can make your life easier:

1

Reduces delays, costs and errors due to manual, repetitive data entry as well as paper-based processes

2

Increases acceptance of the eBL by government regulators, insurers and banks

3

Contributes to your sustainability goals by reducing paper transportation and waste

### Universal eBL requires collaboration

Widespread adoption of eBL has been an elusive goal for container shipping, although it would significantly improve the efficiency and accuracy of the shipping documentation process. With a universal eBL, you could digitally fill out shipping information in the same way regardless of which carrier you ship with. The information would then be automatically available for other processes without having to enter it again.

As with the Air Waybill in commercial air transport, achieving global acceptance of an eBL requires industry-wide collaboration and unified communication between every stakeholder involved in a transaction.

# Streamlined Digital Universal



Through collaboration, DCSA and its members are driving acceptance of an eBL among all stakeholders including regulators, banks and insurers.

## Broad eBL acceptance through standards

To achieve a universal eBL, standards for digital data collection and transmission must be in place. These standards will ensure that B/L data can flow seamlessly between stakeholders regardless of pre-existing relationships, allowing anyone who has adopted the standards to be involved in a transaction. Once a standardised eBL is available, it will also be easier for regulators, banks and insurers to accept the eBL as a viable alternative to paper.

### DCSA eBL Standards

In collaboration with its members and other industry stakeholders, DCSA has developed data, process and interface standards for the submission of shipping instructions and issuance of the B/L, including API definitions and a reference implementation. The standards are aligned with the [UN/CEFACT](#) multimodal transport reference data model to ensure the eBL can encompass different modes of transport.

DCSA and its members are actively working to drive adoption of DCSA eBL standards alongside other industry groups such as the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), SWIFT, BIMCO and FIATA.

All DCSA B/L and eBL standards documentation is freely available for download from the DCSA web site <https://dcsa.org>. The API definitions and reference implementation are available on [SwaggerHub](#) and [GitHub](#) respectively.

Please check out <https://dcsa.org/adopt> for more information on how to adopt the standards and self-verify your implementation.