

# The British International Freight Association (BIFA)

THE LEADING BODY REPRESENTING  
THE UK INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT SERVICES INDUSTRY



## Who we are

BIFA's origins go back to the 1940s. It is the principal trade association providing representation and support to British companies engaged in the international movement of freight to and from the United Kingdom by all modes of transport:



It is a not-for-profit organisation, funded by subscription, which operates through a structure of democratically elected Regional Committees, Policy Groups, and Advisory Bodies each representing a sector of trading activity. These Groups report to the Board of Directors, which in turn is supported by the Council of the Association. Each Member is also entitled and encouraged to contribute to the running of the Association.

## What we do

BIFA's role is:

- to provide effective representation and support for the UK international freight services industry
- to promote good practice and total quality in the provision of freight services by all Members
- to encourage the membership to observe the highest standards of professional competence
- to provide a full range of training courses.

## Our Members

BIFA's membership comprises in excess of 1,500 Members that provide one or more of the following services:

- Air freight consolidation and forwarding
- Maritime intermodal
- European road and rail distribution
- Logistics and supply chain management
- Customs brokerage
- Packing of goods for export
- Warehousing and distribution.

## Becoming a Member

BIFA Members have to meet set criteria in order to qualify for membership, thereby enhancing the value of using only BIFA-registered companies for the movement of freight.

These criteria include:

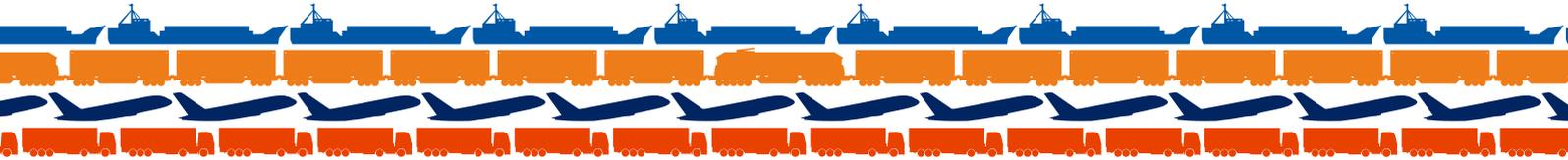
- Submission of annual financial returns
- Adoption of the Association's Standard Trading Conditions
- Adequate liability insurance cover
- A demonstration of industry competence and commitment to staff training.

BIFA also offers Associate membership to organisations which, whilst not engaged in the provision of international freight services, have an ancillary link with the industry and wish to develop their interests through the Association.



# The British International Freight Association (BIFA)

THE LEADING BODY REPRESENTING  
THE UK INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT SERVICES INDUSTRY



## BIFA's Main Tasks

There are four main areas in which BIFA supports its membership:

### 1. Representation and Lobbying

The views of BIFA's Members are listened to in many quarters and it is BIFA's job to see that they are properly presented. This is achieved through active participation in, for example, CLECAT and FIATA (the EU and worldwide level governing bodies of the freight forwarding sectors respectively), IATA (the International Air Transport Association), and the ICC (the International Chambers of Commerce).

BIFA also interacts with many national, governmental and non-governmental bodies such as HM Revenue & Customs, the Department for Transport, the Home Office, the UKBA (UK Border Agency), The Institute of Export, the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) and many more. These organisations recognise BIFA as the representative body of the industry and consult it on a variety of subjects.

### 2. Information and Advice

The business of freight forwarding is very complex. It is important, therefore, for Members to be kept up-to-date on all aspects of the industry and on any matters which may affect their companies. BIFA's website and monthly magazine, *BIFALink*, play an important role in this regard.

BIFA also runs a number of events and seminars throughout the year to ensure that those subjects requiring special attention receive proper coverage. In addition, the Association issues a range of publications aimed at keeping its membership informed.

### 3. Promotion

Promoting the activities of the freight forwarder in the world of commerce is one of BIFA's main activities. The valuable contribution made by the industry to international trade is often underestimated, and enhancing perceptions of the forwarder's role is necessary.

Assisting those new to importing and exporting to identify a suitable freight forwarder is achieved through BIFA's substantial membership database. This enables enquirers to search for BIFA Members by name, location, or by their speciality which may be product or service-based.

### 4. Training

Freight forwarding is a specialist profession and BIFA provides a full range of training courses, available to both BIFA Members and non-Members.

There are courses to enhance the skills of freight forwarders as well as other courses in forwarding practice, management, and specialist subjects such as Customs, aviation security, and dangerous goods which are run throughout the year in a variety of locations. Full details of all courses are available on the BIFA website.



## British International Freight Association

Redfern House  
Browells Lane  
Feltham  
Middlesex  
TW13 7EP  
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 8844 2266  
F: +44 (0)20 8890 5546  
E: [bifa@bifa.org](mailto:bifa@bifa.org)  
W: [bifa.org](http://bifa.org)

November 2015



**BIFA**<sup>®</sup>  
  
BRITISH INTERNATIONAL  
FREIGHT ASSOCIATION