

**Module 5**

*Section B: Distribution Services and Transportation Choices*

**Term**  
Break-bulk

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1) Dividing truckloads, railcars, or containers of homogeneous items into smaller, more appropriate quantities for use. 2) A distribution center that specializes in [these types of] activities. 3) Unitized cargo in bales, boxes, or crates that is placed directly in a ship's holds rather than in containers.

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Common carrier

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Transportation available to the public that does not provide special treatment to any one party and is regulated as to the rates charged, the liability assumed, and the service provided. [It] must obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Federal Trade Commission for interstate traffic. Ant: private carrier.

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Cross-docking

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The concept of packing products on incoming shipments so they can be easily sorted at intermediate warehouses or for outgoing shipments based on final destination. The items are carried from the incoming vehicle docking point to the outgoing vehicle docking point without being stored in inventory at the warehouse. [It] reduces inventory investment and storage space requirements. Syn.: direct loading.

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Move

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The physical transportation of inventory from one location to another within a facility. Movements are usually made under the direction and control of the inventory system.

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Order picking

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Selecting or “picking” the required quantity of specific products for movement to a packaging area (usually in response to one or more shipping orders) and documenting that the material was moved from one location to shipping. Syn.: order selection. See: batch picking, discrete order picking, zone picking.

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Packaging

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Materials surrounding an item to protect it from damage during transportation. The type of packaging influences the danger of such damage.

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Packing and marking

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The activities of packing for safe shipping and unitizing one or more items of an order, placing them into an appropriate container, and marking and labeling the container with customer shipping destination data as well as other information that may be required.

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Put-away

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Removing the material from the dock (or other location of receipt), transporting the material to a storage area, placing that material in a staging area and then moving it to a specific location, and recording the movement and identification of the location where the material has been placed.

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Receiving

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The function encompassing the physical receipt of material, the inspection of the shipment for conformance with the purchase order (quantity and damage), the identification and delivery to destination, and the preparation of receiving reports.

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Shipping

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The function that performs tasks for the outgoing shipment of parts, components, and products. It includes packaging, marking, weighing, and loading for shipment.