



Special Abbreviations and their Significance for the Work of Transport Specialists. Review of the dictionary-reference book «Transport abbreviations. Russian and English meanings»



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ABSTRACT

Transportation abbreviations. Russian and English meanings: a dictionary-reference book. Comp. by B. V. Kosmin, A. A. Kosmina, O. A. Kosmina; ed. by V. V. Kosmin. Moscow; Vologda, Infra-Engineering publ., 2024, 246 p. ISBN 978-5-9729-2015-0.

The review article reveals the necessity of knowledge, understanding and application of abbreviations by specialists of the transport sector, their use of special sources of information to

improve the professional competence on the example of a special dictionary book of Russian and English transport abbreviations under the general editorship of V. V. Kosmin. The dictionary-reference book offers the up-to-day transport terminology in the form of abbreviations and their explications in Russian and English. The concepts and notions used by specialists of the transport sector and related industries are clarified and standardised. The publication contains Incoterms 2020 updated and conform to the latest changes and agreements in the field of international logistics.

Keywords: transportation, transport specialist, transportation sector, abbreviations, special vocabulary, Incoterms, lexicography.

The use of transportation vocabulary is an integral part of the professional activity of specialists of the industry. The globalisation process has entailed technological, social, informational changes, causing the transformation of professional transport discourse. The introduction of new technologies in logistics (automation, use of information systems and mobile applications, etc.), internationalisation of transport services, environmental agenda and other significant aspects have led to the emergence of new professional terms, the use of which is

a prerequisite for the activities of transport specialists¹. The peculiarity of this terminology is the presence of numerous abbreviations used in oral and written communication, business documentation, special literature [1–3]. An «abbreviation» is understood as a compound abbreviated word formed from the initial letters or syllables of a word combination [4]. Proficiency in abbreviations is a mandatory

¹ Federal Law dated 08.11.2007, N 259-FZ, (as amended on 19.10.2023) «Statute of road transport and urban land electric transport» (effective from 01.09.2024).

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Текст статьи на русском языке публикуется в первой части данного выпуска.

requirement for specialists of any industry, and the availability of information sources containing current professional terminology facilitates their work, and is a way to enrich their knowledge and, therefore, competence.

The Dictionary of Transport Russian and English Abbreviations under the editorship of Professor Vladimir V. Kosmin, is a lexicographic oeuvre containing abbreviations of the initial type widely used in the transport industry. The dictionary was co-authored by Anastasia A. Kosmina and Olga A. Kosmina.

The edition presents about five thousand units of Russian and English abbreviations used in the activities of all modes of transport: rail, road, air, pipeline and water, including sea and river transport. A wide range of knowledge in the transport industry allowed the authors to reflect the terminology used under various aspects of the implementation of its activities. The reference book presents the vocabulary related to the survey, design, operation, development of the transport system and to such related issues as economic development, information support, etc.

The relevance of compiling a dictionary of transport abbreviations is determined also by a possibility to clarify and standardise terms to improve the efficiency of interaction between all participants in logistics supply chains. Abbreviations are found in various types of documentation used to implement transportation processes (information and reference sources, scientific and technical, regulatory, administrative, design documentation and specifications, etc.) [5–7]. The high percentage of abbreviated technical terms without interpretation or decoding contained in documents and special literature is one of the problems faced by specialists of the transport sector. The creation of specialised sources containing the necessary information allows reducing the time to search for semantic meanings, avoiding errors and misunderstandings, and positively affects the efficiency of transport logistics operations.

It is worth noting the importance of studying and systematising special abbreviations since that contributes to the work excellence of transport specialists, because [8; 9]:

- Incorrect understanding of abbreviations can lead to errors and consequences that create a threat to transportation safety.

- Knowledge of abbreviated terms contributes to easier perception of information and increases the level of interaction with external partners.

- Standardisation using a single system of abbreviations allows to ensure the functioning of transportation processes in accordance with common norms and standards.

- The use of abbreviations saves time when working with professional documentation.

- Constant practice in working with abbreviations develops information literacy and raises the level of professional standards.

- Specificity in abbreviations for routes, types of services, modes of transport, etc. simplifies navigation within the industry and facilitates identification.

The dictionary – reference book is compiled based on normative and technical, scientific and technical, educational and methodological transport documentation. When preparing this edition, the authors analysed publications in special periodicals, collected data from domestic and foreign dictionaries of abbreviations, summarised and systematised abbreviations used in the designation of incoterms, names, locations, objects, etc.

The reviewed edition is characterised by a clear structure and consists of two parts. First, Russian abbreviations are presented in alphabetical order with the subsequent decoding of each abbreviation, followed by English designations described in a similar way. When the spelling of abbreviations with different meanings coincide, analogues are placed each on a new line via tilde (~) without repeating the designation. A series of abbreviations having identical meanings is given separated by a comma (,) and unrelated meanings are separated by a semicolon (;). The synchronised variation of terms allows to quickly and clearly define the desired concept or notion depending on the context of its use.

The advantage of the English-language part of the dictionary is the presence of a Russian translation after decoding of the English abbreviation, which significantly reduces the search for information on the meaning of a particular term. For some concepts that may cause difficulties, additional comments are given in brackets. The advantage of this edition is that it incorporates updated Incoterms-2020, referring to the transport obligations of various parties and their agreements during the implementation of international logistics processes, as well as the consequences resulting from the execution of contractual terms. Possession of up-to-date information presented in two languages enhances



the abilities of transport specialists and the efficiency of their work [3, 5, 13–15].

Dictionary of Transport Russian and English Abbreviations can be used by specialists of the transport sector when working with various aspects of professional activity. Using the dictionary as a teaching aid will be useful in the process of training future specialists to expand their terminological vocabulary and develop search skills when working with information sources. In lexicography, this oeuvre will be useful for compilers of similar reference books or methodological manuals on transport or related topics as an updated information source.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the significance of compiling the reviewed dictionary – reference book and similar publications is explained through systematisation of special terminology, facilitating transport discourse, increasing awareness of specialists when working with periodicals, special literature, business documentation, as well as the knowledge of concepts describing new phenomena, objects, transportation processes and related fields. Mastery of professional terminology contributes to enriching the qualification of transport industry specialists, increasing their career prospects and opportunities.

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