

Electronic Bills of Ladings: A Tool of Expanding the Horizons of International Trade

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In the modern-day context the world has become a global village where as the commercial transaction proceedings are regulatory functioned and effectively monitored. The International trade developed throughout many centuries and nourished with relevant trade customs and practices of the different nationalities of the world. It is a well-known fact that, European nationalities were the pioneers of the commercial sea voyages. Issuing a Bills of Lading (B/L) for the contractual parties is the key custom that has been established and it is the prima facie evidence of each and every contract of affrayment, Electronic Bill of Lading is the latest version, which resolves the gaps of using manual B/Ls in the international trade. The study emphasizes the pros and cons of using E- B/Ls in the international context with special reference to recent UK statutory regime on E-bills. This qualitative study concludes with emphasizing the importance of practicing E- B/Ls as a commercial trend and recommends some legal solutions for a few technical/practical contexts.

***Key words:** Bills of Lading, Electronic bills, International trade, Contract of affrayment*