Managing Ocean Freight Movements

MercuryGate delivers a solution that allows you to create, track, and settle ocean movements. The MercuryGate TMS breaks the route down to its individual building blocks while maintaining the overall view of the movement. Legs, activities, and containers are planned and managed as the goods move throughout the transportation chain. (This works for less than container moves (LCL) shipments as well but we will discuss full container loads in this document.)

Managing Ocean Movements – Transportation Legs

MercuryGate TMS delivers transportation management. The process starts with the shipment and the container (can be multiple containers of course). The shipment is a request to move the container from A to Z. Several carrier movements will be required to accomplish that movement.

1. Door to Origin Port
2. Origin Port to Destination Port
3. Destination Port to railhead
4. Railhead to railhead
5. Railhead to Door

Different carriers may perform each of these legs and may be paid in different currencies. All of the costs of each leg are summarized on the shipment contributing to the calculation of the total landed cost. The landed cost can be determined in any currency as well.

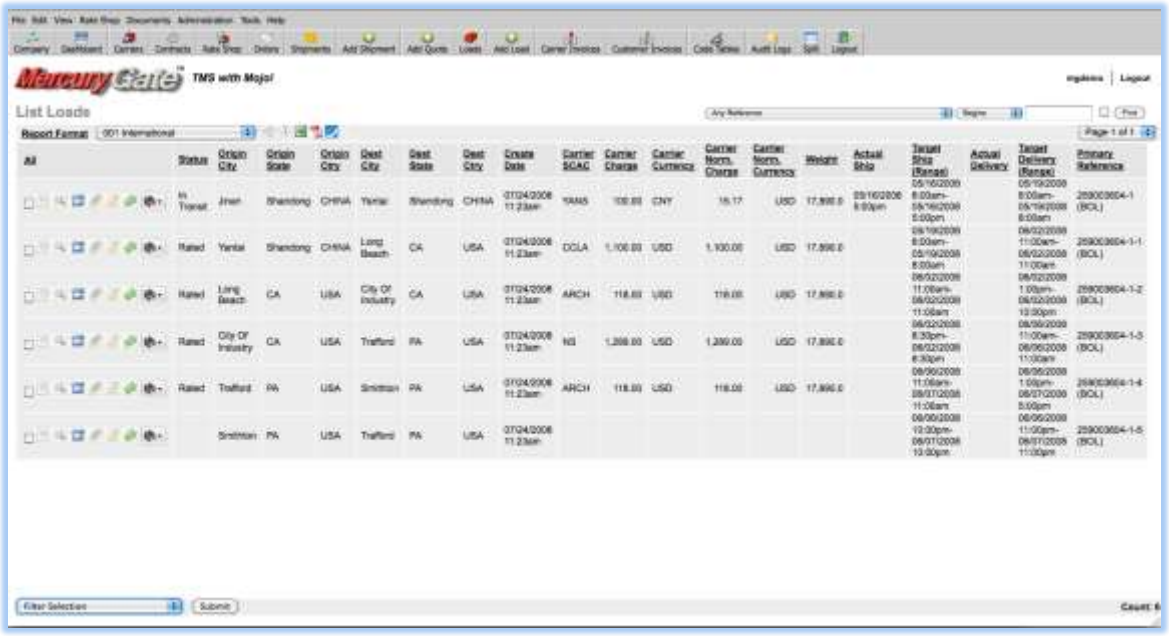

Figure 1: Screen shot of multiple legs delivering a shipment and container

Managing Ocean Movements – Activities

MercuryGate TMS delivers workflow management. Each of the nodes may require certain activities to be performed. A particular party may perform an activity by a planned date at a particular location. These activities may also have a specified cost that also feeds into the landed cost of the movement. Activities are things like custom clearance, export documentation, 10+2 filing, etc.

1. Door to Origin Port
    a. Create paperwork
    b. File export documentation
    c. Supply 1-+2 info to US Customs
2. Origin Port to Destination Port
    a. Arrive at customs
    b. Clear customs
3. Destination Port to railhead
4. Railhead to railhead
5. Railhead to Door

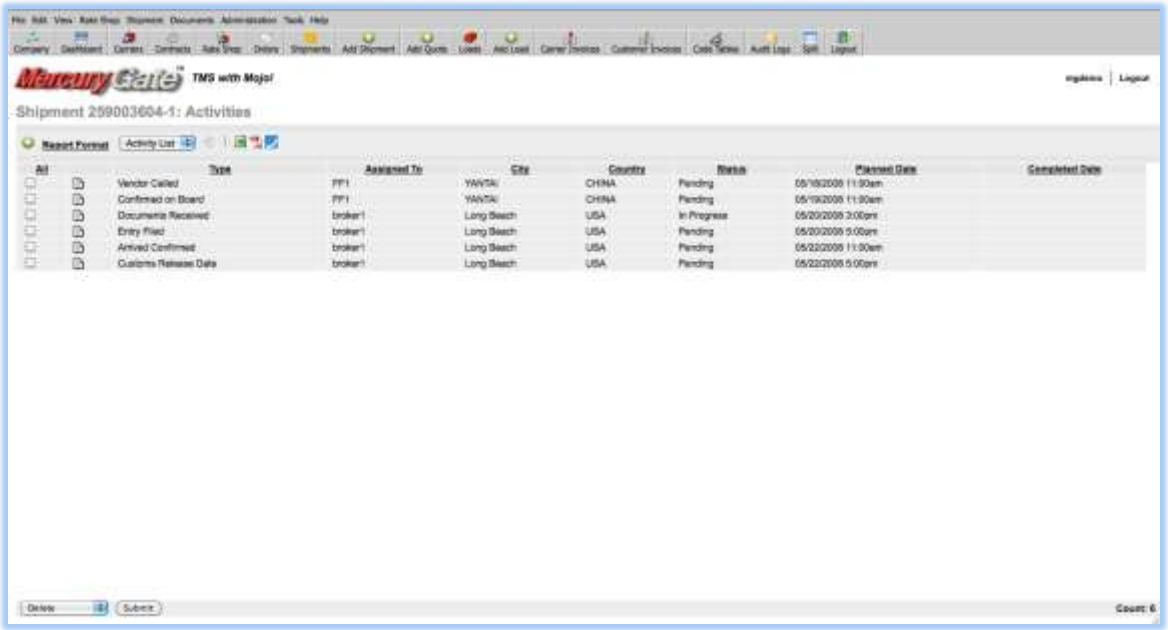

Figure 2: Screen showing workflow activities, responsible parties, planned dates, locations, etc.

Managing Ocean Movements – Visibility

MercuryGate TMS delivers the Russian Doll and the Golden Thread. The Russian doll provides visibility to what is being shipped. The Russian doll concept plays on the doll within a doll but in this case allows you to manage goods. Just like a doll is within a doll we have items within cartons on pallets within containers. The containers are on shipments that are moving through the different legs.

The Golden Thread concept shows where in the transportation route the shipment currently is located. As the container moves through the different legs, tracking

information shows where in the current leg the shipment is located. In the above example the container could currently be in route on the rail move from the origin railhead to the destination railhead. As car locator messages are received they are applied to the load and show up to the minute information about the movement.

Combining these two concepts provides detailed information about the goods and where they are. When the user types in a SKU number they can see a list of all movements that contain the SKU and where they are currently located. Throw in the activities and you can see that visibility extends into the detail of the workflow of the shipping process.

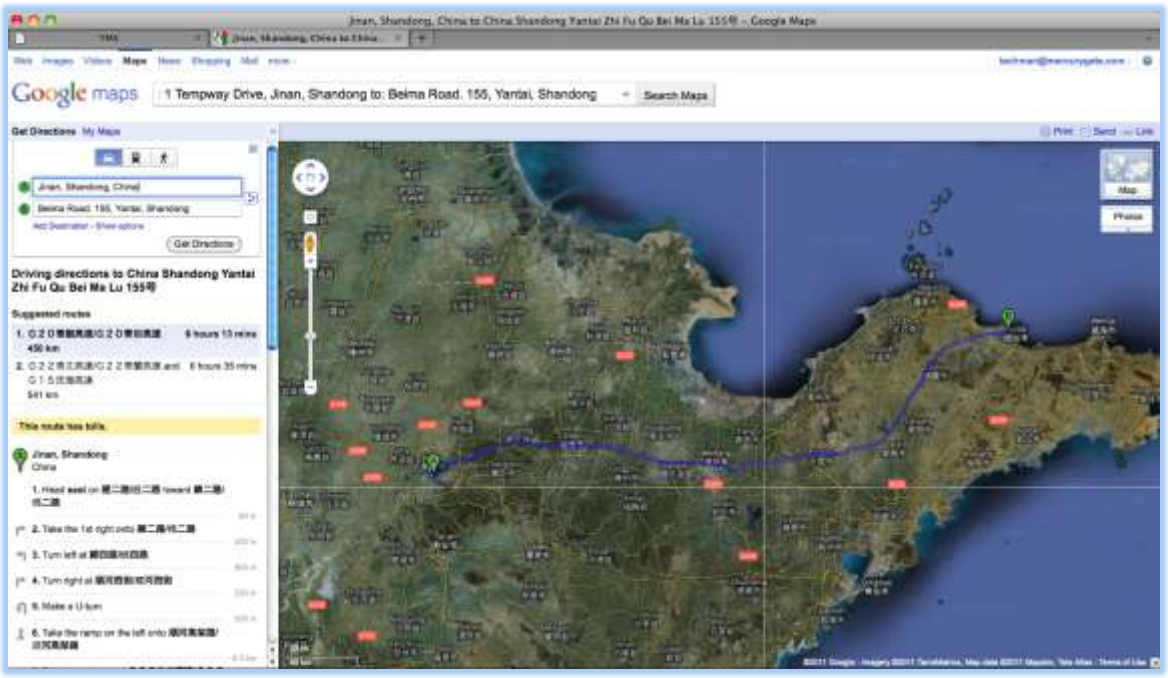

Figure 3: Map showing route of inland China move. Map may be displayed based on any mark or identifier such as container number, SKU, etc.