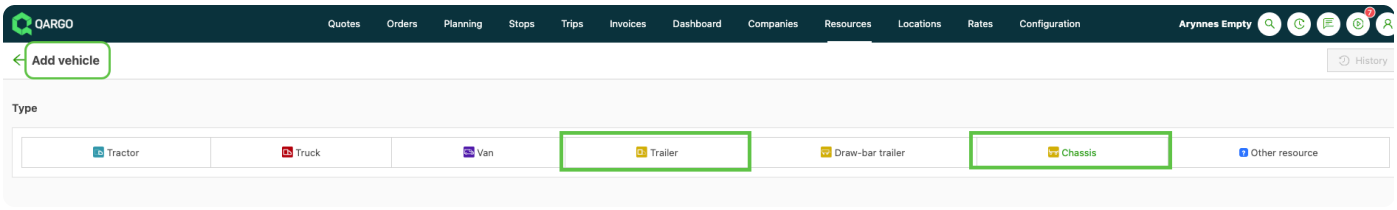
FAQ – Resources: chassis vs. trailer

Qargo supports chassis as a dedicated resource type, helping teams distinguish chassis from trailers for accurate planning, restrictions, integrations, and container transportation workflows.

Updated June 23, 2026

Chassis vs. trailer: when to use each

Chassis are now available as a dedicated resource type in Qargo. This helps planners and drivers clearly distinguish **container chassis** from **regular trailers**, so planning, restrictions, exports, and integrations behave correctly.



What is a chassis?

A **chassis** is a wheeled frame designed to **carry a container**. Unlike a trailer, a chassis has **no freight space of its own**—the container is the "load unit."
In Qargo, chassis are modeled as a first-class resource type so they can be planned, restricted, allocated, and communicated without being misclassified as a trailer.

What is a trailer?

A **trailer** is equipment used to transport freight directly (or freight inside/onto the trailer), and it typically includes trailer-specific attributes (e.g., freight capacity/compartments/roof type) that do not apply to chassis.

The key difference: use case and behavior

Use a Chassis when…

Operating **intermodal or container-based transportation**, where the container is the main unit and the chassis is simply the frame that carries it.
Common scenarios:

- **Port/terminal operations** where containers are picked up and dropped
- **Drop and swap workflows** where chassis may stay in a yard while containers move on/off
- **Intermodal legs (ferry/train)** where the container and chassis may have different operational handling

Why this matters:

- It becomes **visually clear** in planning which equipment is a chassis vs. a trailer
- Integrations and documents can classify the equipment correctly (instead of sending "TRAILER" where "CHASSIS" is intended)
- Apply **resource restrictions** and filters specifically to chassis

Use a Trailer when…

Transporting freight with a standard trailer workflow, where the trailer itself is the relevant equipment type.
Common scenarios:

- Standard road transportation using dry vans, reefers, curtainside trailers, etc.
- When trailer-specific fields and behavior are required (freight capacity, compartments, roof type)

Example 1 — Container drayage (typical chassis use case)

A driver picks up a container from a terminal on a chassis, drives to a customer site, drops the container, and later returns with the empty container.
Use a Chassis because:

- The container is the freight unit
- Planning needs to show equipment as “chassis” (not “trailer”)
- Intermodal/EDI and reporting need correct classification

Example 2 — General freight (typical trailer use case)

A driver hauls goods in a trailer from warehouse A to warehouse B.
Use a Trailer because:

- The trailer is the freight-carrying unit
- Trailer configuration fields and trailer-based workflows apply

---

What changes for users in Qargo?

1) Clearer planning & fewer mistakes

Chassis appear as their own resource type, so planners and drivers no longer need to interpret “trailers” that are actually chassis.
This reduces:

- Planning board confusion
- Incorrect allocations (the wrong equipment used)
- Driver confusion when equipment type matters operationally

---

2) Chassis have trailer-like behavior—without freight-related fields

Chassis reuse most of the same configuration structure as trailers, **but chassis do not include freight-specific properties**.
Chassis **do not use**:

- Freight capacity fields (e.g., loading meters, pallet spaces, volume, payload)
- Compartments
- Roof type

Chassis **do use** (examples):

- General info (name/code/license plate/VIN/manufacturer/model, etc.)
- Dimensions (length/width/height, tare weight, GVWR, etc.)
- Planning availability and allocation behavior (like other equipment resources)

---

3) Migration note: a trailer cannot be converted into a chassis

Chassis previously registered as trailers **cannot be switched in place**.
To migrate:

1. Export the existing “chassis-as-trailer” resources
2. Archive/deactivate the old trailer records
3. Re-import them as **Chassis** using the resource master data import

📚 Click the link 👉 to learn more about importing resources

FAQ

Why not keep using trailers for chassis?

Using trailers as a workaround makes chassis invisible in planning and can cause incorrect classification in integrations, exports, and operational flows. A dedicated chassis type prevents those issues and aligns with real-world operations.

Does this change how equipment is assigned?

Assign chassis where equipment assignment is supported, and filter/restrict them specifically as chassis (instead of mixing them into trailer-only workflows).