

SUBJECT 9

Re: Blackboards, Chalkboards, Corkboards, Tackboards, Whiteboards, Dry Erase Boards or Markerboards

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Proponent: Freight Classification Development Council

Present Classification Provisions

Item	Description	Class
23700	Blackboards or Chalkboards, NOI; Corkboards or Tackboards; or Whiteboards, Dry Erase Boards or Markerboards, NOI; in boxes or crates, see Note, item 23701, or in Package 2532:	
Sub 1	Greatest dimension exceeding 96 inches, subject to Item 170 and having a density in pounds per cubic foot of:	
Sub 2	Less than 10.....	150
Sub 3	10 or greater	77.5
Sub 4	Greatest dimension not exceeding 96 inches, subject to Item 170 and having a density in pounds per cubic foot of:	
Sub 5	Less than 10.....	125
Sub 6	10 or greater	70
23701	NOTE—Corners, edges and sides of articles must be protected by interior packing forms necessary to afford adequate protection against damage from the normal rigors of the less-than-truckload environment. FURNITURE GROUP: subject to item 79000	
79110	Blackboards (Chalkboards), portable, revolving or reversible, on stands:	
Sub 1	SU, in Packages 1F, 2F, 3F, 5F, 21F or 22F.....	100
Sub 2	KD, in Packages 1F, 2F, 3F, 5F, 21F, 22F or 25F	85
79132	Blackboards (Chalkboards) or Pegboards combined with Stands and Seats, plastic, steel and masonite combined, see Note, item 79134, KD flat, in Package 19F	100
79134	NOTE—The weight of plastic cannot exceed 20 percent of the total weight of the shipment.	
79135	Blackboards (Chalkboards) or Pegboards combined with Stands and Seats, wooden or wood and steel combined, KD flat, in Package 19F	85

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Proposed Classification Provisions

Item	Description	Class
⇒23700	Blackboards or Chalkboards; Corkboards or Tackboards; or Whiteboards, Dry Erase Boards or Markerboards , NOI see Notes, items A-NEW and B-NEW; in boxes or crates, see Note, item 23701, or in Package 2532:	
Sub 1	Greatest dimension exceeding 192 inches, subject to Item 170 and having a density in pounds per cubic foot of:	
Sub 2	Less than 6	400
Sub 3	6 but less than 10	200
Sub 4	10 or greater	100
Sub 5	Greatest dimension exceeding 96 inches but not exceeding 192 inches, subject to Item 170 and having a density in pounds per cubic foot of:	
Sub 6	Less than 6	300
Sub 7	6 but less than 10	175
Sub 8	10 or greater	92.5
Sub 9	Greatest dimension not exceeding 96 inches, subject to Item 170 and having a density in pounds per cubic foot of:	
Sub 10	Less than 6	250
Sub 11	6 but less than 10	150
Sub 12	10 or greater	85
23701	NOTE—Corners, edges and sides of articles must be protected by interior packing forms necessary to afford adequate protection against damage from the normal rigors of the less-than-truckload environment.	
⇒A-NEW	NOTE—Also applies on boards made of glass.	
⇒B-NEW	NOTE—Does not apply on electronic whiteboards. For applicable provisions, see item 118258.	
	FURNITURE GROUP: subject to item 79000	
79110	Blackboards (Chalkboards) , portable, revolving or reversible, on stands, etc	⇒Cancel; see item 23700
79132	Blackboards (Chalkboards) or Pegboards combined with Stands and Seats , plastic, steel and masonite combined, see Note, item 79134, KD flat, etc	⇒Cancel; see item 23700
79134	NOTE—⇒Cancel; no further application.	
79135	Blackboards (Chalkboards) or Pegboards combined with Stands and Seats , wooden or wood and steel combined, KD flat, etc... ⇒Cancel; see item 23700	

Analysis

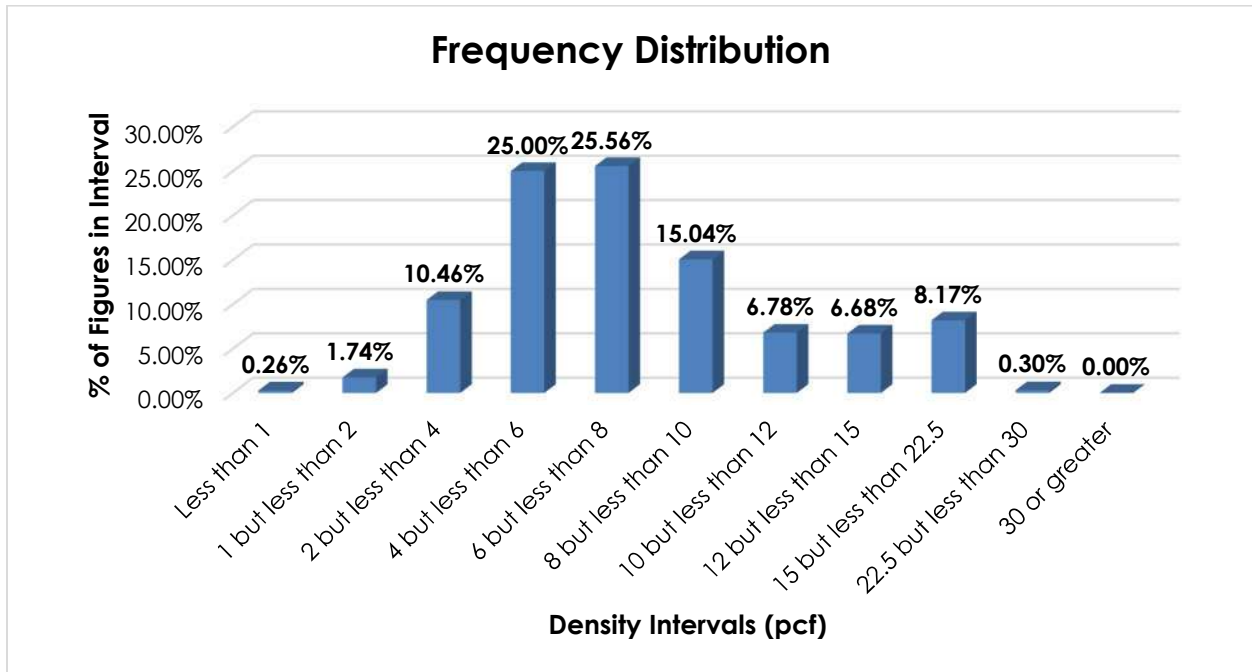
Introduction

During the review of the Furniture Group, it was noted that specific types of blackboards (chalkboards) are named in items 79110, 79132 and 79135. Item 23700 names blackboards, chalkboards and other related types of boards used for writing or display.

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Transportation Characteristics

Density—The information of record includes 50,579 density observations obtained from the FCDC’s Density Study¹. The densities range from 0.25 to 23.51 pcf, with an overall average density of 7.87 pcf. As shown in the graph below, the density distribution is right-skewed, with over 65% of the figures falling between 4 and 10 pcf. Density breaks at 6 and 10 pcf reflect the modality and spread of the distribution.



When the data is evaluated based on the proposed density breaks at 6 and 10 pcf, the density ranges and averages shown in the table below emerge.

Density Group (pcf)	Density Range (pcf)	Average Density (pcf)
Less than 6	0.25 – 5.99	4.27
6 but less than 10	6.00 – 9.99	7.68
10 or greater	10.00 – 23.51	14.38

¹ The Density Study is part of an ongoing effort by the FCDC to collect information on actual shipments across all product categories handled by the LTL industry. Carriers that choose to participate in the Study periodically submit shipment data captured through their respective freight auditing programs. The FCDC uses verifiable data points, identified by NMFC item, that include the weight and the dimensions and/or cube of the shipping unit.

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Handling—The involved articles vary greatly in size, with reported lengths up to 240 inches (20 feet)². As the length/size increases, the handling into and out of the vehicle becomes considerably more difficult, and certain equipment, or additional personnel, may be necessary to safely handle long/large handling units. Furthermore, as the length/size increases, cross-dock operations can be significantly affected. Often there is not enough room at carrier facilities to safely or easily handle and maneuver excessively long/large units.

The involved boards are generally tendered in boxes or Package 2532, which may or may not be secured on lift truck skids or pallets, or in crates. When tendered secured on lift truck skids or pallets, or in crates, the freight may be handled more readily with mechanical equipment since there is clearance for the fork tines to get under and lift them. However, when greatest dimension exceeds 96 inches, even palletized or crated shipments can be difficult to safely handle with mechanical equipment. The level of difficulty increases as the length/size of the article increases, even if fork extensions are available and used.

Stowability—The involved boards are usually stowed on edge, which will generally require floor loading and does not provide a flat load-bearing surface. Due to their size and configuration, it may be difficult to stow adjacent freight, and the lack of a flat load-bearing surface reduces or complicates the carrier's ability to load freight on top and maximize vehicle utilization, necessitating the use of load decks and/or dunnage. Excessively long/large handling units are even more difficult to stow with other general freight, which makes it more difficult and time consuming for the carrier to properly structure the load.

When not tendered secured on lift truck skids or pallets, or in crates, the involved boards can be especially difficult to safely stow, as it may be necessary to secure them within the vehicle to prevent them from tipping over and causing damage to the boards or to adjacent freight or even injury to freight handlers.

Liability—The involved articles are inherently fragile and susceptible to damage. Handling units may be marked with precautionary markings or shipper instructions.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing analysis, items 79110, 79132 and 79135 would be canceled with reference to item 23700. Item 23700 would be amended to provide additional dimensional and density breaks³. Due to the identified negative handling, stowability and liability characteristics, this proposal would assign classes higher than those called for under FCDC's density guidelines. The table on the following page shows the associated average densities for each density group, the classes based on FCDC guidelines, and the respective proposed classes based on greatest dimension.

² Item (Rule) 568, "Heavy or Bulky Freight—Loading or Unloading," employs the threshold limit of exceeding 8 feet (96 inches) in greatest dimension as the measurement at which freight becomes more difficult to load and unload when compared to general boxed freight.

³ The density provisions include reference to Item (Rule) 170, the inadvertence clause.

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Density Group (pcf)	Average Density (pcf)	Class Based on FCDC Guidelines	Class Adjustment When Greatest Dimension Does Not Exceed 96"	Class Adjustment When Greatest Dimension Exceeds 96" But Does Not Exceed 192"	Class Adjustment When Greatest Dimension Exceeds 192"
Less than 6	4.27	200	250	300	400
6 but less than 10	7.68	125	150	175	200
10 or greater	14.38	77.5	85	92.5	100

Two new Notes would be established clarifying the application of item 23700.