

SUBJECT 27

Re: Item (Rule) 180 — Performance Testing of Shipping Containers

Contact: Erin N. Topper Telephone — (703) 838-8856 topper@nmfta.org

Proponent: Freight Classification Development Council

Proposed Classification Provisions

It is proposed to amend Item 180, Performance Testing of Shipping Containers, to read as follows:

ITEM 180**PERFORMANCE TESTING OF SHIPPING CONTAINERS**

[Introductory Paragraphs—No Change.]

Section I. Conditioning

No Change.

Section II. Compression/Vibration Test

[Introductory Paragraph—No Change.]

Method (A)—Stacked Compressive Load/Vibration Testing

No Change.

Method (B)—Separate Compressive Load/Vibration Testing

(1) No Change.

(2) **Vibration Testing:** Using the same shipping unit, conduct vibration testing on all three faces, except as noted below. Face 3 must be tested for one hour and Faces 4 and 6 must be tested for 30 minutes each, for a total duration of two hours, using any of the three following vibration methods, see Note 5:

- (a) Random Vibration, ASTM D4169 Schedule E ~~Level H~~ (truck profile test);
- (b) Repetitive Shock, ASTM D4169 Schedule F (vertical-linear motion); or
- (c) Repetitive Shock, ASTM D4169 Schedule F (rotary motion).

If the shipping unit has a lift truck skid or pallet outside base, or is marked with upright arrow symbols, only Face 3 should be vibrated ~~under the compressive load~~ for two hours.

[Remainder of Rule—No Change.]

SUBJECT 27**Analysis and Conclusion**

ASTM D4169 Schedule E no longer refers to testing levels (e.g. Level II), instead it now specifies looping through low/medium/high vibration profiles. Therefore, this proposal would amend Method (B), paragraph (2) to simply state that the testing must be done in accordance with the truck profile test as detailed in ASTM D4169 Schedule E.

Furthermore, since Method (B) applies on separate compressive load/vibration testing, the reference to “under the compressive load” is proposed to be removed from Method (B), paragraph (2) for clarification.