

Proposed Classification Provisions

It is proposed to amend Item (Rule) 640, Mixed Shipments and Articles Classified by Weight or Quantity, to read as follows:

ITEM 640

MIXED SHIPMENTS AND ARTICLES CLASSIFIED BY WEIGHT OR QUANTITY

Sec. 1. When a single shipment is subject to one class, it will be assessed using the actual or authorized estimated weight and at the applicable class, subject to any minimum charge in carriers' tariff.

Sec. 2. When a single shipment contains articles subject to two or more classes, the bill of lading must specify each article separately by class and the total weight of each separately classified article. Differently classified articles, including those that are contained in separate handling units, will be assessed using the actual or authorized estimated weight and class applicable to each handling unit.

Sec. 3. (a) If a shipment containing articles subject to more than one class is inspected, and the inspection determines that the bill of lading information does not accurately describe those articles and classes, or contains density-based classifications within the same handling unit, the carrier has the option to classify the shipment in accordance with the 13-subprovision density scale published within this Classification. When the shipper has provided weight and dimensions for each handling unit on the original bill of lading, those weights and dimensions will be used to calculate density, pending carrier verification. In the absence of accurate information on the original bill of lading, at carrier's discretion, density may be calculated based on the total weight and overall cube of the entire shipment or on the weight and dimensions of each individual handling unit.

Sec. 3. (b). If all articles do not have density-based classifications, or if any article has handling, stowability or liability considerations, is regulated as a hazardous material, or has classes based on packaging, greatest dimension or some other factor, carrier reserves the right to assess the shipment at the highest classed article tendered.

Sec. 3. (c). Notwithstanding the applicable class, any article that is subject to the released value provisions of the NMFC in effect at the time of shipment shall be considered released at the lowest release value stated therein.

Sec. 4. The weight of pallets, platforms, racks, skids, unitizing materials or packaging forms as required by Item 680, must be shown on shipping orders and bill of lading and will be assessed for at the lowest class applicable to any article or articles comprising not less than 5 percent of the total weight unitized on such pallet, platform, rack or skid.

Proposed Classification Provisions—Concluded

It is proposed to amend Item 680, Packing or Packaging—General, to read as follows:

ITEM 680

PACKING OR PACKAGING—GENERAL

Secs. 1–17. No Change.

Interior Packaging Forms

⇒**Sec. 18.** Articles tendered in a fiberboard box secured to a pallet, platform, skid or rack must have interior packaging forms in the unoccupied space between articles or inner packages and inside top of outer box. Interior packaging forms must be of sufficient strength and design to prevent collapse of the outer box when freight is loaded on top.