

SUBJECT XX

SUBJECT XX: Cotton

Re: Cotton

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Proponent: Freight Classification Development Center

Quick View

The Quick View feature is not intended to replace contextual information within this document. To understand the potential impact of the recommended changes shown here, please read the full proposal.

Subject X: Cotton

Quick View: Seven items related to cotton are canceled with reference to a new item and to provisions otherwise applicable.

- One Note established attendant to the new item
- Note, item 54172 canceled and reestablished attendant to the new item
- Four Notes canceled with no further application
- Cotton generic heading, item 54100, canceled with no further application

Transportation Characteristics Present:

- Handling Yes No Stowability Yes No Liability Yes No Density Yes No

Provisions based on:

- FCDC's 13-sub density scale

SUBJECT XX

Present Classification Provisions

Item	Description	Class
54100	COTTON:	
54150	Carded , in bales or boxes.....	250
54170*	Cotton or Cotton Samples , NOI, see Note, item 54172:	
Sub 1	In bags; or in bales compressed to a density of less than 22½ pounds per cubic foot, see Note, item 54173.....	85
Sub 2	In bales compressed to a density of not less than 22½ pounds per cubic foot, see Notes, items 54171 and 54173	70
54171	NOTE—Shipper must show density on shipping orders and bills of lading at time of shipment. If density is not shown and shipment is inadvertently accepted, class will initially be assessed under the 'in bales compressed to a density of less than 22 ½ pounds per cubic foot' provision. Upon satisfactory proof of actual density, class will be adjusted accordingly.	
54172	NOTE—Does not apply on cotton further processed than ginned.	
54173	NOTE—Cotton samples may also be tendered in bags, bales, boxes or drums.	
54210	Rovings , NOI, dyed or not dyed, in bags or bales.....	100
54270	Cotton Grabots or Immature Cotton Bolls:	
Sub 1	In bags.....	100
Sub 2	In bales.....	85
54290	Cotton Linters , bleached or dyed, see Note, item 54292:	
Sub 1	In bags, boxes or drums, or in bales not machine pressed.....	92.5
Sub 2	In machine pressed bales.....	85
54292	NOTE—Applies only on cotton linters which have been subjected to a bleaching or dyeing process without material change in the length or resiliency of the fiber.	
54310	Cotton Linters , other than bleached or dyed, subject to Item 170:	
Sub 1	In bags; or in bales compressed to less than 15 pounds per cubic foot	85
Sub 2	In bales compressed to 15 pounds or greater per cubic foot	70
54330	Cotton Linters Pulp or Cotton Seed Hull Shavings Pulp , see Note, item 54332, in packages	70
54332	NOTE—Applies only on pulp made from cotton linters or cottonseed hull shavings which have been subjected to a pulping process resulting in a chemical modification of the solution, viscosity of the fibers and also the resiliency of the linters or shavings.	

*Published in Supplement 1 to NMF 100-AZ, effective May 23, 2026.

SUBJECT XX

Present Classification Provisions—Concluded

Item	Description	Class
68310	Fibers , NOI, see Note, item 68311, in bags, bales or boxes, subject to Item 170 and having a density in pounds per cubic foot of:	
Sub 1	Less than 1.....	400
Sub 2	1 but less than 2.....	300
Sub 3	2 but less than 4.....	250
Sub 4	4 but less than 6.....	175
Sub 5	6 but less than 8.....	125
Sub 6	8 but less than 10.....	100
Sub 7	10 but less than 12.....	92.5
Sub 8	12 but less than 15.....	85
Sub 9	15 but less than 22.5.....	70
Sub 10	22.5 but less than 30.....	65
Sub 11	30 but less than 35.....	60
Sub 12	35 but less than 50.....	55
Sub 13	50 or greater.....	50
68311	NOTE—Also applies on Cotton, Wool or Synthetic Fiber Nubs .	

Proposed Classification Provisions

Item	Description	Class
54100	COTTON :.....	⇒Cancel; no further application
54150	Carded , etc.....	⇒Cancel; see item 68310
54170	☒Cotton or Cotton Samples , NOI, etc.....	⇒Cancel; see item A-NEW and provisions otherwise applicable
54171	NOTE—⇒Cancel; no further application.	
54172	NOTE—⇒Cancel; see item C-NEW.	
54173	NOTE—⇒Cancel; no further application.	
54210	Rovings , NOI, dyed or not dyed, etc.....	⇒Cancel; see item 68310
54270	Cotton Grabots or Immature Cotton Bolls , etc.....	⇒Cancel; see item A-NEW
54290	Cotton Linters , bleached or dyed, etc.....	⇒Cancel; see item A-NEW
54292	NOTE—⇒Cancel; no further application.	
54310	Cotton Linters , other than bleached or dyed, etc.....	⇒Cancel; see item A-NEW
54330	Cotton Linters Pulp or Cotton Seed Hull Shavings Pulp , etc.....	⇒Cancel; see item A-NEW

SUBJECT XX

Proposed Classification Provisions—Concluded

Item	Description	Class
54332	NOTE—⇒Cancel; no further application.	
68310	Fibers , NOI, see Note, item 68311, in bags, bales or boxes, subject to Item 170 and having a density in pounds per cubic foot of:	
Sub 1	Less than 1.....	400
Sub 2	1 but less than 2.....	300
Sub 3	2 but less than 4.....	250
Sub 4	4 but less than 6.....	175
Sub 5	6 but less than 8.....	125
Sub 6	8 but less than 10.....	100
Sub 7	10 but less than 12.....	92.5
Sub 8	12 but less than 15.....	85
Sub 9	15 but less than 22.5.....	70
Sub 10	22.5 but less than 30.....	65
Sub 11	30 but less than 35.....	60
Sub 12	35 but less than 50.....	55
Sub 13	50 or greater.....	50
68311	NOTE—No Change.	
⇒A-NEW	Cotton , not required by the U.S. Department of Transportation to bear a Hazard Class or Hazard Division label or placard, see Note, item B-NEW, viz.: Cotton or Cotton Samples , NOI, see Note, item C-NEW, in bags, bales, boxes, drums or wrapped rolls; Cotton Linters , in bags, bales, boxes, drums or wrapped rolls; Cotton Linters Pulp or Cotton Seed Hull Shavings Pulp , in bags, bales, boxes, drums or wrapped rolls; Subject to Item 170 and having a density in pounds per cubic foot of:	
Sub 1	Less than 1.....	400
Sub 2	1 but less than 2.....	300
Sub 3	2 but less than 4.....	250
Sub 4	4 but less than 6.....	175
Sub 5	6 but less than 8.....	125
Sub 6	8 but less than 10.....	100
Sub 7	10 but less than 12.....	92.5
Sub 8	12 but less than 15.....	85
Sub 9	15 but less than 22.5.....	70
Sub 10	22.5 but less than 30.....	65
Sub 11	30 but less than 35.....	60
Sub 12	35 but less than 50.....	55
Sub 13	50 or greater.....	50
⇒B-NEW	NOTE—Does not apply on materials regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation as hazardous and required to bear a Hazard Class or Hazard Division label or placard. For classes applicable to such hazardous materials, see provisions elsewhere in this Classification.	
⇒C-NEW	NOTE—Does not apply on cotton further processed than ginned.	

SUBJECT XX

Analysis

Introduction

This proposal is based on information developed through a review of the Cotton generic heading. During the course of research, the project was expanded to include other forms of minimally processed cotton.

Handling, Stowability, and Liability—There have been no reports of unusual or significant handling, stowability, or liability issues. Therefore, density has been identified as the primary transportation characteristic.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing analysis, items 54170, 54270, 54290, 54310, and 54330 would be canceled with reference to a new item, naming “Cotton,” with additional language restricting the new item’s application to materials not required by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to bear a Hazard Class or Hazard Division label or placard, and classes predicated on the FCDC’s full-scale, density-based provisions¹. Concurrently, an attendant Note would be established, and Note, item 54172 would be canceled and reestablished to clarify the application of the new item. Notes, items 54171, 54173, 54292, and 54332, and the Cotton generic heading, item 54100, would be canceled with no further application.

Additionally, items 54150 and 54210 would be canceled with reference to the full-scale, density-based provisions of item 68310², naming “Fibers, NOI.”

The FCDC’s Lead Classification and Packaging Analyst has reviewed the proposed minimum packaging requirements and determined they are appropriate for the LTL environment.

¹ The new item would provide the FCDC’s standard 13-subprovision density scale, which would include reference to Item (Rule) 170, the inadvertence clause.

² Item 68310 provides the FCDC’s standard 13-subprovision density scale, which includes reference to Item (Rule) 170, the inadvertence clause.