

SUBJECT XX

## SUBJECT XX: Item (Rule) 245 – Definition of or Specifications for Crates

**Re:** Item (Rule) 245 – Definition of or Specifications for Crates

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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: Item (Rule) 245 – Definition of or Specifications for Crates

**Quick View:** Item (Rule) 245 is amended to provide additional interior packaging requirements for all authorized crates and to impose weight restrictions on wirebound crates.

## SUBJECT XX

**Proposed Classification Provisions**

**It is proposed to amend Item 245, Definition of or Specifications for Crates, to read as follows:**

Crates are six-sided containers constructed of wood or metal slats or structural members with apertures between, securely nailed, bolted, screwed, riveted or welded together, of sufficient design and strength to fully enclose and protect contents so as to withstand the normal rigors of the less-than-truckload environment. Article(s) must be secured within crates and no part shall protrude. ⇒Surfaces liable to be damaged must be fully covered and protected. All moveable contents within the crate must be blocked and/or braced to prevent any shifting during transportation. ⇒Commodities with legs must be suspended away from all edges of the crate by at least one inch. Crates must be framed to provide sufficient strength and stability to support toploaded freight of even load and weight distribution during transport, utilizing the available space above the crate, up to 96 inches, and having a density of at least 20 pounds per cubic foot. ⇒If the weight of the commodity exceeds 500 pounds, a standard crate must be used instead of a wirebound crate.

[REMAINDER OF ITEM—NO CHANGE.]

**Analysis and Conclusion**

This proposal is in response to carrier reports and subsequent discussions held during the March 2026 Packaging Committee meeting that shippers are using wirebound crates with insufficient interior packaging to transport commodities that need higher degrees of protection afforded by standard wood or metal crates.

FCDC packaging policies state that the FCDC is to establish and maintain packaging rules and specifications as necessary to ensure that freight is adequately protected and can be handled and stowed in a manner that is reasonably safe and practicable so as to withstand the normal rigors of the less-than-truckload environment. As such, the proposed language in the introductory paragraph of Item (Rule) 245 would provide additional interior packaging requirements for all authorized crates. Concurrently, a weight restriction of 500 pounds would be assigned to wirebound crates to encourage shippers to use sturdier wood or metal crates for heavier freight.