SUBJECT 4

SUBJECT 4: China Group

Re: **China Group**

Contact: Amber Parker FCDC@nmfta.org

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 4: China Group

Quick View: Three items related to ceramicware, china, earthenware, porcelain, or stoneware are canceled with reference to item 47500, which provides classes predicated on the FCDC's 13-subprovision density scale.

- One new Note established attendant to item 47500
- Note, item 47501 canceled with no further application
- China Group, item 47490, canceled with no further application
- Item (Rule) 172 amended

Transportation Characteristics Present:

- Handling ☐Yes ☒No Stowability ☐Yes ☒No Liability ☐Yes ☒No Density ☒Yes ☐No

Provisions based on:

- FCDC's 13-subprovision density scale

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Present Classification Provisions

Item	Description	Class
47490	**CHINA GROUP:** Articles consist of China, Earthenware or Pottery, as described in items subject to this grouping.	
47495	**Birdbaths,** terra cotta, in boxes or crates	100
47500	**Ceramicware, China, Earthenware, Porcelain or Stoneware,** NOI, in boxes or crates, released to a value not exceeding $1.70 per pound, see Note, item 47501, 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
47501	NOTE—Unless otherwise provided in individual participating carriers' tariffs, articles moving under the provisions of item 47500 shall only be accepted subject to a maximum liability of $1.70 per pound. If shipper fails to declare a value, or declares a value in excess of $1.70 per pound, shipment will not be accepted, but if the shipment is inadvertently accepted, it will be considered as being released to a value not exceeding $1.70 per pound and the shipment will move subject to such limitation of liability. In no instance will carriers' liability exceed the actual value of the article lost or damaged.	
47545	**Flower Boxes,** terra cotta, in boxes or crates	85
47550	**Flowerpots or Flowerpot Saucers,** pottery:	
Sub 1	In packages other than as set forth in sub 2	125
Sub 2	In inner packaging material in boxes or crates	110

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Present Classification Provisions—Concluded

Item 172*

LIMITATION OF CARRIER LIABILITY WHERE VALUE IS NOT DECLARED BY SHIPPER

Where item 47500, 88160, 100240, 164900, or 168960 of this Classification applies, and shipper fails to declare a value as required by those provisions, the shipment will not be accepted, but if the shipment is inadvertently accepted, the carrier's liability shall be limited as follows:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	VALUE LIMITATION
47500	**Ceramicware, China, Earthenware, Porcelain or Stoneware,** NOI	$1.70 per pound
88160	**Glassware,** NOI	$19.00 per pound
100240	**Household Goods, Personal Effects or Military Baggage,** other than shipments moving under the U.S. Department of Defense Personal Property Program	$0.10 per pound
164900	**Radioactive Materials**	$25.00 per pound
168960	**Records, Documents or Files,** office	$0.25 per pound

Where the provisions of other tariffs apply, and those provisions specify a limitation of the carrier's liability absent a release or value declaration by the shipper, the carrier's liability shall be limited to the extent provided by such applicable provisions when the shipper does not make the requisite or specified release or value declaration.

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Proposed Classification Provisions

Item	Description	Class
47490	**CHINA GROUP,** etc	⇉Cancel; no further application
47495	**Birdbaths,** terra cotta, etc	⇉Cancel; see item 47500
⇉47500	**Ceramicware, China, Earthenware, Porcelain or Stoneware,** NOI, in boxes or crates, 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
47501	NOTE—⇉Cancel; no further application.	
⇉NEW	NOTE—Articles must be protected by interior packing forms or packaging materials necessary to afford adequate protection against damage.	
47545	**Flower Boxes,** terra cotta, etc	⇉Cancel; see item 47500
47550	**Flowerpots or Flowerpot Saucers,** etc	⇉Cancel; see item 47500

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Proposed Classification Provisions—Concluded

Item 172

LIMITATION OF CARRIER LIABILITY WHERE VALUE IS NOT DECLARED BY SHIPPER

Where item ⇉~~47500,~~ 88160, 100240, 164900, or 168960 of this Classification applies, and shipper fails to declare a value as required by those provisions, the shipment will not be accepted, but if the shipment is inadvertently accepted, the carrier's liability shall be limited as follows:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	VALUE LIMITATION
⇉~~47500~~	⇉~~**Ceramicware, China, Earthenware, Porcelain or Stoneware,** NOI~~	⇉~~$1.70 per pound~~
88160	**Glassware,** NOI	$19.00 per pound
100240	**Household Goods, Personal Effects or Military Baggage,** other than shipments moving under the U.S. Department of Defense Personal Property Program	$0.10 per pound
164900	**Radioactive Materials**	$25.00 per pound
168960	**Records, Documents or Files,** office	$0.25 per pound

Where the provisions of other tariffs apply, and those provisions specify a limitation of the carrier's liability absent a release or value declaration by the shipper, the carrier's liability shall be limited to the extent provided by such applicable provisions when the shipper does not make the requisite or specified release or value declaration.

Analysis

Introduction

This proposal was initially discussed by the FCDC at its public meeting on March 10, 2026, in Savannah, GA. During that meeting, comments were made suggesting the 13-subprovision density scale would be appropriate for the involved items. These items were initially reviewed with the intent of removing value-based provisions, combining like commodities, and examining the involved products' transportation characteristics. As a result, the FCDC voted to withdraw disposition of this proposal pending further review.

Transportation Characteristics

Handling, Stowability and Liability—While there have been reports on the involved products' inherent fragility, there appears to be no significant handling, stowability or liability issues when tendered with proper interior and exterior packaging.

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Conclusion

Based on the foregoing analysis, this proposal identifies density as the primary transportation characteristic and would cancel items 47495, 47545, and 47550 with reference to item 47500, naming "Ceramicware, China, Earthenware, Porcelain or Stoneware**,** NOI," which provides classes predicated on the FCDC's standard 13-subprovision density scale[1].

Additionally, the China Group, item 47490, and Note, item 47501 would be canceled with no further application.

The FCDC's Lead Classification and Packaging Analyst has reviewed the proposed minimum packaging requirements and determined they are appropriate for the LTL environment. A new packaging Note would also be established to provide additional packaging requirements.

Concurrently, Item (Rule)172 would be amended to remove reference to item 47500.

[1] Item 47500 provides the FCDC's standard 13-subprovision density scale, which includes reference to Item (Rule) 170, the inadvertence clause.