

SUBJECT 30

SUBJECT 30: Item (Rule) 245 – Definition of or Specifications for Crates**Re:** Item (Rule) 245 – Definition of or Specifications for Crates**Contact:** Larissa A. Franklin

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 30: 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 30

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.

SUBJECT 31

SUBJECT 31: Item (Rule) 680, Note 3 – Articles Tendered on Reels**Re:** Item (Rule) 680, Note 3 – Articles Tendered on Reels**Contact:** Larissa A. Franklin

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Proponent: Weighing and Research Council's Packaging Committee**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 31: Item (Rule) 680, Note 3 – Articles Tendered on Reels

Quick View: Item (Rule) 680, Note 3 is amended to provide an equation to determine compliancy of commodities wrapped or wound on reels.

- New figure added to clarify necessary measurements

SUBJECT 31

Present Classification Provisions

ITEM 680

PACKING OR PACKAGING—GENERAL

Sec. 1. (a) Not Involved.

Notes 1 and 2—Not Involved.

Note 3—Unless otherwise provided, articles tendered on reels shall be deemed to be in compliance when the reel is filled to not less than 65 percent of capacity. When filled to less than 65 percent of capacity, the gross weight of the reel and its contents will be subject to the class applicable to either the reel or its contents, whichever is higher.

Note 4—Not Involved.

Secs. 1. (b)-17. Not Involved.

Proposed Classification Provisions

ITEM 680

PACKING OR PACKAGING—GENERAL

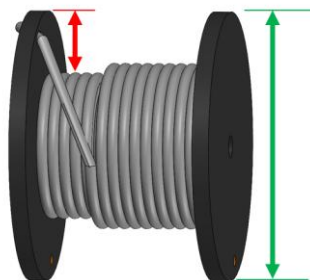
Secs. 1. (a) No Change.

Notes 1 and 2—No Change.

Note 3—Unless otherwise provided, articles tendered on reels shall be deemed to be in compliance when the reel is filled to not less than 65 percent capacity. The occupancy of the reel shall be determined using the following measurements and formula. If the result of the calculation is equal to or less than 0.35, the reel and its contents shall be deemed to be in compliance. If the result of the calculation is greater than 0.35, the gross weight of the reel and the commodity wrapped or wound thereon will be subject to the class applicable to either the reel or the commodity, whichever is higher.

Reel Capacity

$$= \frac{\text{Distance from Innermost Exposed Wrap of Commodity to Outermost Edge of the Reel's Flange (in or cm)}}{\text{Diameter of the Reel's Flange (in or cm)}}$$



Note 4—No Change.

Secs. 1. (b)-17. No Change.

SUBJECT 31**Analysis and Conclusion**

This proposal was developed in conjunction with the NMFTA's Weighing and Research Council's Packaging Committee in response to action taken on Docket 2023-3, Subject 19 (Item (Rule) 680, Note 3 — Articles Tendered on Reels). That proposal was withdrawn as a result of comments made at the FCDC's October 2023 public meeting stating that the proposed provisions for Item (Rule) 680, Note 3 would be difficult to apply. The Proposed Provisions herein are based on subsequent discussions held during several Packaging Committee meetings.

An equation was developed to alleviate interpretive issues in applying Item (Rule) 680, Note 3. As such, this proposal would maintain the requirement for an article to occupy at least "65% of capacity" of a reel to be deemed compliant. If the occupancy stipulations are not met, then the gross weight of the reel and article wrapped or wound thereon will be subject to the class applicable to the reel or the commodity, whichever is higher. This proposed requirement would thus parallel with the compliancy specifications delineated in Notes 1 and 2 of Item (Rule) 680.

Additionally, a new figure would be added to clarify how to obtain and apply the appropriate measurements for the proposed calculation.