

goods by sea. Any proclamation of suspension or rescission of any such suspension shall take effect on a date named therein, which date shall be not less than ten days from the issue of the proclamation.

“Any contract for the carriage of goods by sea, subject to the provisions of this Act, effective during any period when title I hereof, or any part thereof, are suspended, shall be subject to all provisions of law now or hereafter applicable to that part of title I which may have thus been suspended. [As amended Pub. L. 97-31, §12(146), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 166.]

“[EFFECTIVE DATE]

“SEC. 15. This Act shall take effect ninety days after the date of its approval [April 16, 1936]; but nothing in this Act shall apply during a period not to exceed one year following its approval to any contract for the carriage of goods by sea, made before the date on which this Act is approved, nor to any bill of lading or similar document of title issued, whether before or after such date of approval in pursuance of any such contract as aforesaid.

“[SHORT TITLE]

“SEC. 16. This Act may be cited as the ‘Carriage of Goods by Sea Act.’”

§ 30702. Application

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided, this chapter applies to a carrier engaged in the carriage of goods to or from any port in the United States.

(b) LIVE ANIMALS.—Sections 30703 and 30704 of this title do not apply to the carriage of live animals.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §6(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1516.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Rows for 30702(a) and 30702(b).

Subsection (a) is added based on language appearing in various source provisions restated in this chapter. The word ‘carriage’ is substituted for ‘transporting’, and the word ‘goods’ is substituted for ‘merchandise or property’, to use the same terminology as in the Carriage of Goods By Sea Act (Apr. 16, 1936, ch. 229, 49 Stat. 1207). The words ‘to or from any port in the United States’ are substituted for ‘from or between ports of the United States and foreign ports’ in 46 App. U.S.C. 190 and 193, ‘from or between ports of the United States of America and foreign ports’ in 46 App. U.S.C. 191, and ‘to or from any port in the United States of America’ in 46 App. U.S.C. 192, for clarity and consistency. See Knott v. Botany Mills, 179 U.S. 69 (1900).

§ 30703. Bills of lading

(a) ISSUANCE.—On demand of a shipper, the carrier shall issue a bill of lading or shipping document.

(b) CONTENTS.—The bill of lading or shipping document shall include a statement of—

- (1) the marks necessary to identify the goods;
(2) the number of packages, or the quantity or weight, and whether it is carrier’s or shipper’s weight; and
(3) the apparent condition of the goods.

(c) PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF RECEIPT.—A bill of lading or shipping document issued under this section is prima facie evidence of receipt of the goods described.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §6(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1516.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row for 30703.

In subsection (a), the words ‘On demand of a shipper’ are added because of the reference to a demand in 46 App. U.S.C. 194. The words ‘transporting merchandise or property from or between ports of the United States and foreign ports’ are omitted because of section 30702(a) of the revised title. The word ‘lawful’ (which modifies ‘merchandise’) is omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (b)(2), the words ‘or weight’ are added for consistency with the requirement to state whether it is the carrier’s or shipper’s weight.

In subsection (b)(3), the word ‘order’ is omitted as redundant to ‘condition’. The words ‘delivered to and received by . . . for transportation’ are omitted as unnecessary.

§ 30704. Loading, stowage, custody, care, and delivery

A carrier may not insert in a bill of lading or shipping document a provision avoiding its liability for loss or damage arising from negligence or fault in loading, stowage, custody, care, or proper delivery. Any such provision is void.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §6(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1516.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row for 30704.

The words ‘transporting merchandise or property from or between ports of the United States and foreign ports’ are omitted because of section 30702(a) of the revised title. The words ‘may not’ are substituted for ‘It shall not be lawful . . . to’, and the word ‘provision’ is substituted for ‘clause, covenant, or agreement’, to eliminate unnecessary words. The words ‘any and all lawful’ and ‘committed to its or their charge’ are omitted as unnecessary. The words ‘Any such provision is void’ are substituted for ‘Any and all words or clauses of such import inserted in bills of lading or shipping receipts shall be null and void and of no effect’ to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 30705. Seaworthiness

(a) PROHIBITION.—A carrier may not insert in a bill of lading or shipping document a provision lessening or avoiding its obligation to exercise due diligence to—

- (1) make the vessel seaworthy; and
(2) properly man, equip, and supply the vessel.

(b) VOIDNESS.—A provision described in subsection (a) is void.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §6(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1516.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row for 30705.

In subsection (a), before paragraph (1), the words ‘transporting merchandise or property from or be-