

must be submitted to the shipper in writing and must indicate whether it is binding or nonbinding. The written estimate shall be based on a physical survey of the household goods if the household goods are located within a 50-mile radius of the location of the carrier's household goods agent preparing the estimate.

(ii) **BINDING.**—A binding estimate under this paragraph must indicate that the carrier and shipper are bound by such charges. The carrier may impose a charge for providing a written binding estimate.

(iii) **NONBINDING.**—A nonbinding estimate under this paragraph must indicate that the actual charges will be based upon the actual weight of the individual shipper's shipment and the carrier's lawful tariff charges. The carrier may not impose a charge for providing a nonbinding estimate.

(2) **OTHER INFORMATION.**—At the time that a motor carrier provides the written estimate required by paragraph (1), the motor carrier shall provide the shipper a copy of the Department of Transportation publication FMCSA-ESA-03-005 (or its successor publication) entitled "Ready to Move?". Before the execution of a contract for service, the motor carrier shall provide the shipper copy of the Department of Transportation publication OCE 100, entitled "Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move" required by section 375.213 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(3) **APPLICABILITY OF ANTITRUST LAWS.**—Any charge for an estimate of charges provided by a motor carrier to a shipper for transportation of household goods subject to jurisdiction under subchapter I of chapter 135 shall be subject to the antitrust laws, as defined in the first section of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12).

(c) **FLEXIBILITY IN WEIGHING SHIPMENTS.**—The Secretary shall issue regulations that provide motor carriers providing transportation of household goods subject to jurisdiction under subchapter I of chapter 135 with the maximum possible flexibility in weighing shipments, consistent with assurance to the shipper of accurate weighing practices. The Secretary shall not prohibit such carriers from backweighing shipments or from basing their charges on the reweigh weights if the shipper observes both the tare and gross weighings (or, prior to such weighings, waives in writing the opportunity to observe such weighings) and such weighings are performed on the same scale.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §103, Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 891; amended Pub. L. 109-59, title IV, §4205, Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1753.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 11110 of this title prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a).

AMENDMENTS

2005—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-59 added pars. (1) and (2), redesignated former par. (2) as (3), and struck out heading and text of former par. (1). Text read as follows:

"Every motor carrier providing transportation of household goods subject to jurisdiction under subchapter I of chapter 135, upon request of a prospective shipper, may provide the shipper with an estimate of charges for transportation of household goods and for the proposed services. The Secretary shall not prohibit any such carrier from charging a prospective shipper for providing a written, binding estimate for the transportation and proposed services."

STUDY OF ENFORCEMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION RULES IN HOUSEHOLD GOODS MOVING INDUSTRY

Pub. L. 106-159, title II, §209(c), Dec. 9, 1999, 113 Stat. 1764, provided that: "The Comptroller General shall conduct a study of the effectiveness of the Department of Transportation's enforcement of household goods consumer protection rules under title 49, United States Code. The study shall also include a review of other potential methods of enforcing such rules, including allowing States to enforce such rules."

SUBCHAPTER II—REPORTS AND RECORDS

§ 14121. Definitions

In this subchapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) **CARRIER AND BROKER.**—The terms "carrier" and "broker" include a receiver or trustee of a carrier and broker, respectively.

(2) **ASSOCIATION.**—The term "association" means an organization maintained by or in the interest of a group of carriers or brokers providing transportation or service subject to jurisdiction under chapter 135 that performs a service, or engages in activities, related to transportation under this part.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §103, Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 892.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 11141 of this title prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a).

§ 14122. Records: form; inspection; preservation

(a) **FORM OF RECORDS.**—The Secretary or the Board, as applicable, may prescribe the form of records required to be prepared or compiled under this subchapter by carriers and brokers, including records related to movement of traffic and receipts and expenditures of money.

(b) **RIGHT OF INSPECTION.**—The Secretary or Board, or an employee designated by the Secretary or Board, may on demand and display of proper credentials, in person or in writing—

(1) inspect and examine the lands, buildings, and equipment of a carrier or broker; and

(2) inspect and copy any record of—

(A) a carrier, broker, or association; and

(B) a person controlling, controlled by, or under common control with a carrier if the Secretary or Board, as applicable, considers inspection relevant to that person's relation to, or transaction with, that carrier.

(c) **PERIOD FOR PRESERVATION OF RECORDS.**—The Secretary or Board, as applicable, may prescribe the time period during which operating, accounting, and financial records must be preserved by carriers and brokers.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §103, Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 893; amended Pub. L. 112-141, div. C, title II, §32501(d), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 803.)