

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1346.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
80101	49 App.:122.	Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §42, 39 Stat. 545.

In this chapter, the words “negotiable bill of lading” are substituted for “order bill”, and the words “non-negotiable bill of lading” are substituted for “straight bill”, for clarity and consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code.

In this section, before clause (1), the words “unless the context of subject matter otherwise requires” are omitted as unnecessary because of the restatement. The words “‘Action’ includes counterclaim, set-off, and suit in equity” are omitted as unnecessary. The words “‘Bill’ means bill of lading, governed by this chapter” are omitted because of section 80102 of the revised title. In clauses (1), (2), and (4), the words “‘Person’ includes a corporation or partnership, or two or more persons having a joint or common interest” are omitted because of 1:1. In clause (3), the words “personal property” are substituted for “chattels” for clarity and consistency. The words “is being” are substituted for “in course of” for clarity. In clause (7), the words “‘State’ means a State of the United States” are substituted for “‘State’ includes” for clarity and consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the Code. The word “possession” is substituted for “insular possession, or isthmian possession” for consistency in the revised title.

§ 80102. Application

This chapter applies to a bill of lading when the bill is issued by a common carrier for the transportation of goods—

- (1) between a place in the District of Columbia and another place in the District of Columbia;
- (2) between a place in a territory or possession of the United States and another place in the same territory or possession;
- (3) between a place in a State and a place in another State;
- (4) between a place in a State and a place in the same State through another State or a foreign country; or
- (5) from a place in a State to a place in a foreign country.

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HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
80102	49 App.:81.	Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §1, 39 Stat. 538.

In this chapter, the words “common carrier” are substituted for “carrier” because the source provisions restated in this section provide that this chapter applies to bills of lading issued by common carriers.

In clause (2), the words “territory or possession” are substituted for “Territory” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code.

§ 80103. Negotiable and nonnegotiable bills

(a) NEGOTIABLE BILLS.—(1) A bill of lading is negotiable if the bill—

- (A) states that the goods are to be delivered to the order of a consignee; and

(B) does not contain on its face an agreement with the shipper that the bill is not negotiable.

(2) Inserting in a negotiable bill of lading the name of a person to be notified of the arrival of the goods—

- (A) does not limit its negotiability; and
- (B) is not notice to the purchaser of the goods of a right the named person has to the goods.

(b) NONNEGOTIABLE BILLS.—(1) A bill of lading is nonnegotiable if the bill states that the goods are to be delivered to a consignee. The indorsement of a nonnegotiable bill does not—

- (A) make the bill negotiable; or
- (B) give the transferee any additional right.

(2) A common carrier issuing a nonnegotiable bill of lading must put “nonnegotiable” or “not negotiable” on the bill. This paragraph does not apply to an informal memorandum or acknowledgment.

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HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
80103(a)(1) ..	49 App.:83.	Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §§2, 3, 6, 7, 29 (last sentence), 39 Stat. 539, 543.
80103(a)(2) ..	49 App.:87.	
80103(b)(1) ..	49 App.:82. 49 App.:109 (last sentence).	
80103(b)(2) ..	49 App.:86.	

In subsection (a)(1), the words “A bill of lading is negotiable if . . . states that the goods are to be delivered to the order of a consignee” are substituted for “A bill in which it is stated that the goods are consigned or destined to the order of any person named in such bill is an order bill” for clarity and consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code. The words “does not contain on its face an agreement with the shipper that the bill is not negotiable” are substituted for 49 App.:83 (last sentence) for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (a)(2)(B), the words “right the named person has” are substituted for “rights or equities of such person” for clarity.

In subsection (b)(1), before clause (A), the words “A bill of lading is nonnegotiable if” are substituted for “A bill in which . . . is a straight bill” in 49 App.:82 for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the Code. The words “free from existing equities” in 49 App.:109 (last sentence) are omitted as surplus.

§ 80104. Form and requirements for negotiation

(a) GENERAL RULES.—(1) A negotiable bill of lading may be negotiated by indorsement. An indorsement may be made in blank or to a specified person. If the goods are deliverable to the order of a specified person, then the bill must be indorsed by that person.

(2) A negotiable bill of lading may be negotiated by delivery when the common carrier, under the terms of the bill, undertakes to deliver the goods to the order of a specified person and that person or a subsequent indorsee has indorsed the bill in blank.

(3) A negotiable bill of lading may be negotiated by a person possessing the bill, regardless of the way in which the person got possession, if—