

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
40104	46 App.:1714.	Pub. L. 98-237, §15, Mar. 20, 1984, 98 Stat. 84; Pub. L. 98-595, §3(b)(3), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 3133; Pub. L. 105-258, title I, §113, Oct. 14, 1998, 112 Stat. 1912.

CHAPTER 403—AGREEMENTS

Sec.	
40301.	Application.
40302.	Filing requirements.
40303.	Content requirements.
40304.	Commission action.
40305.	Assessment agreements.
40306.	Nondisclosure of information.
40307.	Exemption from antitrust laws.

§ 40301. Application

(a) OCEAN COMMON CARRIER AGREEMENTS.—This part applies to an agreement between or among ocean common carriers to—

- (1) discuss, fix, or regulate transportation rates, including through rates, cargo space accommodations, and other conditions of service;
- (2) pool or apportion traffic, revenues, earnings, or losses;
- (3) allot ports or regulate the number and character of voyages between ports;
- (4) regulate the volume or character of cargo or passenger traffic to be carried;
- (5) engage in an exclusive, preferential, or cooperative working arrangement between themselves or with a marine terminal operator;
- (6) control, regulate, or prevent competition in international ocean transportation; or
- (7) discuss and agree on any matter related to a service contract.

(b) MARINE TERMINAL OPERATOR AGREEMENTS.—This part applies to an agreement between or among marine terminal operators, or between or among one or more marine terminal operators and one or more ocean common carriers, to—

- (1) discuss, fix, or regulate rates or other conditions of service; or
- (2) engage in exclusive, preferential, or cooperative working arrangements, to the extent the agreement involves ocean transportation in the foreign commerce of the United States.

(c) ACQUISITIONS.—This part does not apply to an acquisition by any person, directly or indirectly, of any voting security or assets of any other person.

(d) MARITIME LABOR AGREEMENTS.—This part does not apply to a maritime labor agreement. However, this subsection does not exempt from this part any rate, charge, regulation, or practice of a common carrier that is required to be set forth in a tariff or is an essential term of a service contract, whether or not the rate, charge, regulation, or practice arises out of, or is otherwise related to, a maritime labor agreement.

(e) ASSESSMENT AGREEMENTS.—This part (except sections 40305 and 40307(a)) does not apply to an assessment agreement.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §7, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1528.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
40301(a)	46 App.:1703(a).	Pub. L. 98-237, §4, Mar. 20, 1984, 98 Stat. 70; Pub. L. 105-258, title I, §103, Oct. 14, 1998, 112 Stat. 1904.
40301(b)	46 App.:1703(b).	Pub. L. 98-237, §5(e) (last sentence), (f), Mar. 20, 1984, 98 Stat. 70; Pub. L. 104-88, title III, §335(c)(2), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 954; Pub. L. 105-258, title I, §104(a)(2), (b), Oct. 14, 1998, 112 Stat. 1904, 1905.
40301(c)	46 App.:1703(c).	
40301(d)	46 App.:1704(f).	
40301(e)	46 App.:1704(e) (last sentence).	

§ 40302. Filing requirements

(a) IN GENERAL.—A true copy of every agreement referred to in section 40301(a) or (b) of this title shall be filed with the Federal Maritime Commission. If the agreement is oral, a complete memorandum specifying in detail the substance of the agreement shall be filed.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to—

- (1) an agreement related to transportation to be performed within or between foreign countries; or
- (2) an agreement among common carriers to establish, operate, or maintain a marine terminal in the United States.

(c) REGULATIONS.—The Commission may by regulation prescribe the form and manner in which an agreement shall be filed and any additional information and documents necessary to evaluate the agreement.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §7, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1528.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
40302	46 App.:1704(a).	Pub. L. 98-237, §5(a), Mar. 20, 1984, 98 Stat. 70; Pub. L. 98-595, §3(b)(1), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 3132.

§ 40303. Content requirements

(a) OCEAN COMMON CARRIER AGREEMENTS.—

(1) RESTRICTIONS.—An ocean common carrier agreement may not—

- (A) prohibit or restrict a member of the agreement from engaging in negotiations for a service contract with a shipper;
- (B) require a member of the agreement to disclose a negotiation on a service contract, or the terms of a service contract, other than those terms required to be published under section 40502(d) of this title; or
- (C) adopt mandatory rules or requirements affecting the right of an agreement member to negotiate and enter into a service contract.

(2) VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES.—An ocean common carrier agreement may provide authority to adopt voluntary guidelines relating to the terms and procedures of an agreement member's service contracts if the guidelines explicitly state the right of members of the agree-