

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.

(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)
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—

(A) a common carrier, under the terms of the bill, undertakes to deliver the goods to that person; or

(B) when the bill is negotiated, it is in a form that allows it to be negotiated by delivery.

(b) VALIDITY NOT AFFECTED.—The validity of a negotiation of a bill of lading is not affected by the negotiation having been a breach of duty by the person making the negotiation, or by the owner of the bill having been deprived of possession by fraud, accident, mistake, duress, loss, theft, or conversion, if the person to whom the bill is negotiated, or a person to whom the bill is subsequently negotiated, gives value for the bill in good faith and without notice of the breach of duty, fraud, accident, mistake, duress, loss, theft, or conversion.

(c) NEGOTIATION BY SELLER, MORTGAGOR, OR PLEDGOR TO PERSON WITHOUT NOTICE.—When goods for which a negotiable bill of lading has been issued are in a common carrier’s possession, and the person to whom the bill has been issued retains possession of the bill after selling, mortgaging, or pledging the goods or bill, the subsequent negotiation of the bill by that person to another person receiving the bill for value, in good faith, and without notice of the prior sale, mortgage, or pledge has the same effect as if the first purchaser of the goods or bill had expressly authorized the subsequent negotiation.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1347.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
80104(a)(1) ..	49 App.:108.	Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §§27, 28, 30, 37, 38, 39 Stat. 542, 543, 544.
80104(a)(2) ..	49 App.:107.	
80104(a)(3) ..	49 App.:110.	
80104(b)	49 App.:117.	
80104(c)	49 App.:118.	

In subsection (a)(1), the words “If the goods are deliverable to the order of a specified person” are substituted for “the person to whose order the goods are deliverable by the tenor of the bill” for clarity. The text of 49 App.:108 (last sentence) is omitted as unnecessary because of the restatement.

§ 80105. Title and rights affected by negotiation

(a) TITLE.—When a negotiable bill of lading is negotiated—

(1) the person to whom it is negotiated acquires the title to the goods that—

(A) the person negotiating the bill had the ability to convey to a purchaser in good faith for value; and

(B) the consignor and consignee had the ability to convey to such a purchaser; and

(2) the common carrier issuing the bill becomes obligated directly to the person to whom the bill is negotiated to hold possession of the goods under the terms of the bill the same as if the carrier had issued the bill to that person.

(b) SUPERIORITY OF RIGHTS.—When a negotiable bill of lading is negotiated to a person for value in good faith, that person's right to the goods for which the bill was issued is superior to a seller's lien or to a right to stop the transportation of the goods. This subsection applies whether the negotiation is made before or after the common carrier issuing the bill receives notice of the seller's claim. The carrier may deliver the goods to an unpaid seller only if the bill first is surrendered for cancellation.

(c) MORTGAGEE AND LIEN HOLDER RIGHTS NOT AFFECTED.—Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this chapter does not limit a right of a mortgagee or lien holder having a mortgage or lien on goods against a person that purchased for value in good faith from the owner, and got possession of the goods immediately before delivery to the common carrier.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1347.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
80105(a)	49 App.:111.	Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §§31, 39, 40, 39 Stat. 543, 544.
80105(b)	49 App.:119.	
80105(c)	49 App.:120.	

In subsection (a)(1), before subclause (A), the word "duly" is omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), the words "right . . . is superior" are substituted for "no . . . shall defeat the rights of" for clarity. The words "right to stop the transportation" are substituted for "right of stoppage in transitu" for clarity.

In subsection (c), the word "remedies" is omitted as being included in "right". The words "whose mortgage or lien on goods would be valid, apart from this chapter" are omitted as unnecessary because of the restatement. The words "which are subject to the mortgage or lien" are omitted as unnecessary.

§ 80106. Transfer without negotiation

(a) DELIVERY AND AGREEMENT.—The holder of a bill of lading may transfer the bill without negotiating it by delivery and agreement to transfer title to the bill or to the goods represented by it. Subject to the agreement, the person to whom the bill is transferred has title to the goods against the transferor.

(b) COMPELLING INDORSEMENT.—When a negotiable bill of lading is transferred for value by delivery without being negotiated and indorsement of the transferor is essential for negotiation, the transferee may compel the transferor to indorse the bill unless a contrary intention appears. The negotiation is effective when the indorsement is made.

(c) EFFECT OF NOTIFICATION.—(1) When a transferee notifies the common carrier that a non-negotiable bill of lading has been transferred under subsection (a) of this section, the carrier

is obligated directly to the transferee for any obligations the carrier owed to the transferor immediately before the notification. However, before the carrier is notified, the transferee's title to the goods and right to acquire the obligations of the carrier may be defeated by—

(A) garnishment, attachment, or execution on the goods by a creditor of the transferor; or

(B) notice to the carrier by the transferor or a purchaser from the transferor of a later purchase of the goods from the transferor.

(2) A common carrier has been notified under this subsection only if—

(A) an officer or agent of the carrier, whose actual or apparent authority includes acting on the notification, has been notified; and

(B) the officer or agent has had time, exercising reasonable diligence, to communicate with the agent having possession or control of the goods.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1348.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
80106(a)	49 App.:109 (1st sentence).	Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §§29 (1st sentence), 32, 33, 39 Stat. 543.
80106(b)	49 App.:112 (1st sentence).	
80106(c)	49 App.:113. 49 App.:112 (2d-last sentences).	

In subsection (a), the words "without negotiating it" are added for clarity.

In subsection (b), the text of 49 App.:113 (last sentence) is omitted as unnecessary because of the words "the transferee may compel the transferor".

In subsection (c)(1), before clause (A), the words "also acquires the right to notify" and "by the transferor or transferee of a straight bill" are omitted as unnecessary because of the restatement.

§ 80107. Warranties and liability

(a) GENERAL RULE.—Unless a contrary intention appears, a person negotiating or transferring a bill of lading for value warrants that—

(1) the bill is genuine;

(2) the person has the right to transfer the bill and the title to the goods described in the bill;

(3) the person does not know of a fact that would affect the validity or worth of the bill; and

(4) the goods are merchantable or fit for a particular purpose when merchantability or fitness would have been implied if the agreement of the parties had been to transfer the goods without a bill of lading.

(b) SECURITY FOR DEBT.—A person holding a bill of lading as security for a debt and in good faith demanding or receiving payment of the debt from another person does not warrant by the demand or receipt—

(1) the genuineness of the bill; or

(2) the quantity or quality of the goods described in the bill.

(c) DUPLICATES.—A common carrier issuing a bill of lading, on the face of which is the word "duplicate" or another word indicating that the