

are substituted for “either to the consignee or person in possession of the bill or to the adverse claimant” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “civil action” are substituted for “legal proceedings” for consistency with rule 2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 App. U.S.C.).

In subsection (e), before clause (1), the words “at least 2” are substituted for “more than one” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code. In clause (1), the words “civil action” are substituted for “an original suit” for consistency with rule 2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 App. U.S.C.). The words “whichever is appropriate” are omitted as unnecessary.

§ 80111. Liability for delivery of goods

(a) GENERAL RULES.—A common carrier is liable for damages to a person having title to, or right to possession of, goods when—

(1) the carrier delivers the goods to a person not entitled to their possession unless the delivery is authorized under section 80110(b)(2) or (3) of this title;

(2) the carrier makes a delivery under section 80110(b)(2) or (3) of this title after being requested by or for a person having title to, or right to possession of, the goods not to make the delivery; or

(3) at the time of delivery under section 80110(b)(2) or (3) of this title, the carrier has information it is delivering the goods to a person not entitled to their possession.

(b) EFFECTIVENESS OF REQUEST OR INFORMATION.—A request or information is effective under subsection (a)(2) or (3) of this section only if—

(1) an officer or agent of the carrier, whose actual or apparent authority includes acting on the request or information, has been given the request or information; and

(2) the officer or agent has had time, exercising reasonable diligence, to stop delivery of the goods.

(c) FAILURE TO TAKE AND CANCEL BILLS.—Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, if a common carrier delivers goods for which a negotiable bill of lading has been issued without taking and canceling the bill, the carrier is liable for damages for failure to deliver the goods to a person purchasing the bill for value in good faith whether the purchase was before or after delivery and even when delivery was made to the person entitled to the goods. The carrier also is liable under this paragraph if part of the goods are delivered without taking and canceling the bill or plainly noting on the bill that a partial delivery was made and generally describing the goods or the remaining goods kept by the carrier.

(d) EXCEPTIONS TO LIABILITY.—A common carrier is not liable for failure to deliver goods to the consignee or owner of the goods or a holder of the bill if—

(1) a delivery described in subsection (c) of this section was compelled by legal process;

(2) the goods have been sold lawfully to satisfy the carrier’s lien;

(3) the goods have not been claimed; or

(4) the goods are perishable or hazardous.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1350.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i> | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i> |
|------------------------|--|---|
| 80111(a) | 49 App.:90 (less last par.). | Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §§10–12, 26, 39 Stat. 540, 542. |
| 80111(b) | 49 App.:90 (last par.). | |
| 80111(c) | 49 App.:91 (words after 2d comma). 49 App.:92 (words after 2d comma). | |
| 80111(d) | 49 App.:91 (words before 2d comma). 49 App.:92 (words before 2d comma). 49 App.:106. | |

In subsection (a), before clause (1), the word “title” is substituted for “right of property” for consistency in this chapter.

In subsection (c), the words “negotiable bill of lading” are substituted for “order bill . . . the negotiation of which would transfer the right to the possession of the goods” in 49 App.:91 for consistency in this chapter.

§ 80112. Liability under negotiable bills issued in parts, sets, or duplicates

(a) PARTS AND SETS.—A negotiable bill of lading issued in a State for the transportation of goods to a place in the 48 contiguous States or the District of Columbia may not be issued in parts or sets. A common carrier issuing a bill in violation of this subsection is liable for damages for failure to deliver the goods to a purchaser of one part for value in good faith even though the purchase occurred after the carrier delivered the goods to a holder of one of the other parts.

(b) DUPLICATES.—When at least 2 negotiable bills of lading are issued in a State for the same goods to be transported to a place in the 48 contiguous States or the District of Columbia, the word “duplicate” or another word indicating that the bill is not an original must be put plainly on the face of each bill except the original. A common carrier violating this subsection is liable for damages caused by the violation to a purchaser of the bill for value in good faith as an original bill even though the purchase occurred after the carrier delivered the goods to the holder of the original bill.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1351.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i> | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 80112(a) | 49 App.:84. | Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §§4, 5, 39 Stat. 539. |
| 80112(b) | 49 App.:85. | |

In this section, the words “48 contiguous States or the District of Columbia” are substituted for “United States on the Continent of North America, except Alaska and Panama” and the text of 49 App.:84 (proviso) and 85 (proviso) for clarity.

In subsection (a), the words “If so issued” and “described therein” are omitted as surplus. The word “occurred” is added for clarity.

§ 80113. Liability for nonreceipt, misdescription, and improper loading

(a) LIABILITY FOR NONRECEIPT AND MISDESCRIPTION.—Except as provided in this section, a common carrier issuing a bill of lading is liable for damages caused by nonreceipt by the carrier of any part of the goods by the date shown in the

bill or by failure of the goods to correspond with the description contained in the bill. The carrier is liable to the owner of goods transported under a nonnegotiable bill (subject to the right of stoppage in transit) or to the holder of a negotiable bill if the owner or holder gave value in good faith relying on the description of the goods in the bill or on the shipment being made on the date shown in the bill.

(b) NONLIABILITY OF CARRIERS.—A common carrier issuing a bill of lading is not liable under subsection (a) of this section—

- (1) when the goods are loaded by the shipper;
- (2) when the bill—

(A) describes the goods in terms of marks or labels, or in a statement about kind, quantity, or condition; or

(B) is qualified by “contents or condition of contents of packages unknown”, “said to contain”, “shipper’s weight, load, and count”, or words of the same meaning; and

- (3) to the extent the carrier does not know whether any part of the goods were received or conform to the description.

(c) LIABILITY FOR IMPROPER LOADING.—A common carrier issuing a bill of lading is not liable for damages caused by improper loading if—

- (1) the shipper loads the goods; and
- (2) the bill contains the words “shipper’s weight, load, and count”, or words of the same meaning indicating the shipper loaded the goods.

(d) CARRIER’S DUTY TO DETERMINE KIND, QUANTITY, AND NUMBER.—(1) When bulk freight is loaded by a shipper that makes available to the common carrier adequate facilities for weighing the freight, the carrier must determine the kind and quantity of the freight within a reasonable time after receiving the written request of the shipper to make the determination. In that situation, inserting the words “shipper’s weight” or words of the same meaning in the bill of lading has no effect.

(2) When goods are loaded by a common carrier, the carrier must count the packages of goods, if package freight, and determine the kind and quantity, if bulk freight. In that situation, inserting in the bill of lading or in a notice, receipt, contract, rule, or tariff, the words “shipper’s weight, load, and count” or words indicating that the shipper described and loaded the goods, has no effect except for freight concealed by packages.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1351.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| Revised Section | Source (U.S. Code) | Source (Statutes at Large) |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 80113(a) | 49 App.:102. | Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §22, 39 Stat. 542; restated Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 510, §6, 44 Stat. 1450. |
| 80113(b) | 49 App.:101 (1st sentence). | Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §§20, 21, 39 Stat. 541. |
| 80113(c) | 49 App.:101 (last sentence words before proviso). | |
| 80113(d)(1) .. | 49 App.:101 (last sentence proviso). | |
| 80113(d)(2) .. | 49 App.:100. | |

In subsection (a), the words “a common carrier issuing a bill of lading” are substituted for “If a bill of lad-

ing has been issued by a carrier or on his behalf by an agent or employee the scope of whose actual or apparent authority includes the receiving of goods and issuing bills of lading therefor for transportation in commerce among the several States and with foreign nations” to eliminate unnecessary words and for consistency with section 80102 of the revised title. The words “at the time of its issue” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), before clause (1), the words “A common carrier issuing a bill of lading is not liable under subsection (a) of this section” are substituted for “such statements, if true, shall not make liable the carrier issuing the bill of lading” for clarity. In clause (1), the word “goods” is substituted for “package freight or bulk freight” for consistency in this chapter. In clause (2)(B), the quoted words are placed in quotation marks for consistency and to conform to section 7-301 of the Uniform Commercial Code. The words “shipper’s weight, load, and count” are added for consistency in this section.

In subsection (d)(1), the words “makes available to the common carrier adequate facilities for weighing the freight” are substituted for “installs and maintains adequate facilities for weighing such freight, and the same are available to the carrier . . . when given a reasonable opportunity so to do” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “In that situation, inserting the words ‘shipper’s weight’ or other words of the same meaning in the bill of lading has no effect” are substituted for “and the carriers shall not in such cases insert in the bill of lading the words ‘Shipper’s weight’, or other words of like purport, and if so inserted contrary to the provisions of this section, said words shall be treated as null and void and as if not inserted therein” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (d)(2), the words “and such carrier shall not, in such cases” are omitted as surplus. The words “In that situation . . . has no effect” are substituted for 49 App.:100 (last sentence) for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “except for freight concealed by packages” are substituted for “or in case of bulk freight and freight not concealed by packages the description made by him” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.

§80114. Lost, stolen, and destroyed negotiable bills

(a) DELIVERY ON COURT ORDER AND SURETY BOND.—If a negotiable bill of lading is lost, stolen, or destroyed, a court of competent jurisdiction may order the common carrier to deliver the goods if the person claiming the goods gives a surety bond, in an amount approved by the court, to indemnify the carrier or a person injured by delivery against liability under the outstanding original bill. The court also may order payment of reasonable costs and attorney’s fees to the carrier. A voluntary surety bond, without court order, is binding on the parties to the bond.

(b) LIABILITY TO HOLDER.—Delivery of goods under a court order under subsection (a) of this section does not relieve a common carrier from liability to a person to whom the negotiable bill has been or is negotiated for value without notice of the court proceeding or of the delivery of the goods.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1352.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| Revised Section | Source (U.S. Code) | Source (Statutes at Large) |
|-----------------|------------------------|--|
| 80114(a) | 49 App.:94 (1st par.). | Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §14, 39 Stat. 540. |