

for “Regulations and effective date” in item 5907 and added item 5908.

CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in section 113 of this title.

§ 5901. Definitions

In this chapter—

(1) except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the definitions in sections 10102 and 13102 of this title apply.

(2) “beneficial owner” means a person not having title to property but having ownership rights in the property, including a trustee of property in transit from an overseas place of origin that is domiciled or doing business in the United States, except that a carrier, agent of a carrier, broker, customs broker, freight forwarder, warehouse, or terminal operator is not a beneficial owner only because of providing or arranging for any part of the intermodal transportation of property.

(3) “carrier” means—

(A) a motor carrier, water carrier, and rail carrier providing transportation of property in commerce; and

(B) an ocean common carrier (as defined in section 3 of the Shipping Act of 1984 (46 App. U.S.C. 1702)) providing transportation of property in commerce.

(4) “container” has the meaning given the term “freight container” by the International Standards Organization in Series 1, Freight Containers, 3d Edition (reference number ISO668-1979(E)), including successive revisions, and similar containers that are used in providing transportation in interstate commerce.

(5) “first carrier” means the first carrier transporting a loaded container or trailer in intermodal transportation.

(6) “gross cargo weight” means the weight of the cargo, packaging materials (including ice), pallets, and dunnage.

(7) “intermodal transportation” means the successive transportation of a loaded container or trailer from its place of origin to its place of destination by more than one mode of transportation in interstate or foreign commerce, whether under a single bill of lading or under separate bills of lading.

(8) “trailer” means a nonpower, property-carrying, trailing unit that is designed for use in combination with a truck tractor.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(d), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 859; Pub. L. 104-291, title II, §203, Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3453.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
5901(1)	49:501(a)(1).	
5901(2)	49:501(a)(4).	
5901(3)	49:501(a)(5).	
5901(4)	49:501(a)(6).	
5901(5)	49:501(a)(7).	
5901(6)	49:501(a)(8).	
5901(7)	49:501(a)(9).	

This chapter restates 49:508 and the relevant definitions in 49:501 because the subject matter more appropriately belongs in subtitle III of title 49. The text of 49:501(a)(1) is restated to incorporate the definitions in 49:10102. The terms defined in 49:501(a)(2) and (3) are not used in this chapter.

In clause (2), the word “including” is substituted for “For purposes of this paragraph . . . shall be treated as a beneficial owner of such property” for consistency and to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “is not a beneficial owner only because of providing or arranging for any part of the intermodal transportation of property” are substituted for “providing or arranging for any portion of intermodal transportation of property shall in no case be a beneficial owner of such property, for purposes of this paragraph, solely by reason of providing or arranging for such transportation” to eliminate unnecessary words.

In clause (3)(A), the words “(as such terms are defined in section 10102 of this title)” are omitted as unnecessary because of clause (1) of this section.

In clause (7), the words “property-carrying” are substituted for “cargo carrying” for consistency in the revised title.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Par. (1). Pub. L. 104-291, §203(1), added par. (1) and struck out former par. (1) which read as follows: “the definitions in section 10102 of this title apply.”

Pars. (6) to (8). Pub. L. 104-291, §203(2), (3), added par. (6) and redesignated former pars. (6) and (7) as (7) and (8), respectively.

§ 5902. Notifications and certifications

(a) PRIOR NOTIFICATION.—If the first carrier to which any loaded container or trailer having a projected gross cargo weight of more than 29,000 pounds is tendered for intermodal transportation is a motor carrier, the person tendering the container or trailer shall give the motor carrier a notification of the gross cargo weight and a reasonable description of the contents of the container or trailer before the tendering of the container or trailer. The notification may be transmitted electronically or by telephone. This subsection applies to any person within the United States who tenders a container or trailer subject to this chapter for intermodal transportation if the first carrier is a motor carrier.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A person who tenders a loaded container or trailer with an actual gross cargo weight of more than 29,000 pounds to a first carrier for intermodal transportation shall provide a certification of the contents of the container or trailer in writing, or electronically, before or when the container or trailer is so tendered.

(2) CONTENTS OF CERTIFICATION.—The certification required by paragraph (1) shall include—

- (A) the actual gross cargo weight;
- (B) a reasonable description of the contents of the container or trailer;
- (C) the identity of the certifying party;
- (D) the container or trailer number; and
- (E) the date of certification or transfer of data to another document, as provided for in paragraph (3).

(3) TRANSFER OF CERTIFICATION DATA.—A carrier who receives a certification may transfer the information contained in the certification to another document or to electronic format for forwarding to a subsequent carrier. The person transferring the information shall state on the forwarded document the date on which the data was transferred and the identity of the party who performed the transfer.

(4) SHIPPING DOCUMENTS.—For purposes of this chapter, a shipping document, prepared

by the person who tenders a container or trailer to a first carrier, that contains the information required by paragraph (2) meets the requirements of paragraph (1).

(5) USE OF "FREIGHT ALL KINDS" TERM.—The term "Freight All Kinds" or "FAK" may not be used for the purpose of certification under section 5902(b) after December 31, 2000, as a commodity description for a trailer or container if the weight of any commodity in the trailer or container equals or exceeds 20 percent of the total weight of the contents of the trailer or container. This subsection does not prohibit the use of the term after that date for rating purposes.

(6) SEPARATE DOCUMENT MARKING.—If a separate document is used to meet the requirements of paragraph (1), it shall be conspicuously marked "INTERMODAL CERTIFICATION".

(7) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection applies to any person, domestic or foreign, who first tenders a container or trailer subject to this chapter for intermodal transportation within the United States.

(c) FORWARDING CERTIFICATIONS TO SUBSEQUENT CARRIERS.—A carrier, agent of a carrier, broker, customs broker, freight forwarder, warehouse, or terminal operator shall forward the certification provided under subsection (b) of this section to a subsequent carrier transporting the container or trailer in intermodal transportation before or when the loaded intermodal container or trailer is tendered to the subsequent carrier. If no certification is received by the subsequent carrier before or when the container or trailer is tendered to it, the subsequent carrier may presume that no certification is required. The act of forwarding the certification may not be construed as a verification or affirmation of the accuracy or completeness of the information in the certification. If a person inaccurately transfers the information on the certification, or fails to forward the certification to a subsequent carrier, then that person is liable to any person who incurs any bond, fine, penalty, cost (including storage), or interest for any such fine, penalty, cost (including storage), or interest incurred as a result of the inaccurate transfer of information or failure to forward the certification. A subsequent carrier who incurs a bond, fine, penalty, or cost (including storage), or interest as a result of the inaccurate transfer of the information, or the failure to forward the certification, shall have a lien against the contents of the container or trailer under section 5905 in the amount of the bond, fine, penalty, or cost (including storage), or interest and all court costs and legal fees incurred by the carrier as a result of such inaccurate transfer or failure.

(d) LIABILITY TO OWNER OR BENEFICIAL OWNER.—If—

(1) a person inaccurately transfers information on a certification required by subsection (b)(1), or fails to forward a certification to the subsequent carrier;

(2) as a result of the inaccurate transfer of such information or a failure to forward a certification, the subsequent carrier incurs a bond, fine, penalty, or cost (including storage), or interest; and

(3) that subsequent carrier exercises its rights to a lien under section 5905,

then that person is liable to the owner or beneficial owner, or to any other person paying the amount of the lien to the subsequent carrier, for the amount of the lien and all costs related to the imposition of the lien, including court costs and legal fees incurred in connection with it.

(e) NONAPPLICATION.—(1) The notification and certification requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section do not apply to any intermodal container or trailer containing consolidated shipments loaded by a motor carrier if that motor carrier—

(A) performs the highway portion of the intermodal movement; or

(B) assumes the responsibility for any weight-related fine or penalty incurred by any other motor carrier that performs a part of the highway transportation.

(2) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section and section 5903(c) of this title do not apply to a carrier when the carrier is transferring a loaded container or trailer to another carrier during intermodal transportation, unless the carrier is also the person tendering the loaded container or trailer to the first carrier.

(3) A carrier, agent of a carrier, broker, customs broker, freight forwarder, warehouse, or terminal operator is deemed not to be a person tendering a loaded container or trailer to a first carrier under this section, unless the carrier, agent, broker, customs broker, freight forwarder, warehouse, or terminal operator assumes legal responsibility for loading property into the container or trailer.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(d), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 860; Pub. L. 104-291, title II, §204, Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3453.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
5902(a)	49:508(a)(1).	
5902(b)	49:508(a)(2).	
5902(c)	49:508(b).	
5902(d)(1)	49:508(e).	
5902(d)(2)	49:508(a)(4).	

In subsection (c), the words "shall forward" are substituted for "It shall be a violation of this section for . . . to fail to forward" for clarity. The words "may not be construed as" are substituted for "shall not constitute, or in any way be construed as" to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (d)(2), the words "is deemed not to be" are substituted for "shall not be considered to be" for consistency in the revised title.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-291, §204(a)(4), (5), substituted "electronically or by telephone. This subsection applies to any person within the United States who tenders a container or trailer subject to this chapter for intermodal transportation if the first carrier is a motor carrier." for "electronically."

Pub. L. 104-291, §204(a)(3), inserted "before the tendering of the container or trailer" after "contents of the container or trailer".

Pub. L. 104-291, §204(a)(2), substituted "29,000 pounds is tendered for intermodal transportation is a motor carrier, the person tendering the container or trailer shall give the motor carrier a" for "10,000 pounds (in-

cluding packing material and pallets), the person shall give the carrier a written¹.

Pub. L. 104-291, §204(a)(1), substituted "If the first carrier to which any" for "Before a person tenders to a first carrier for intermodal transportation a".

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-291, §204(b), reenacted heading without change and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: "Not later than when a person tenders to a first carrier for intermodal transportation a container or trailer to which subsection (a) of this section applies or a loaded container or trailer having an actual gross cargo weight of more than 10,000 pounds (including packing material and pallets), the person shall certify to the carrier in writing the actual gross cargo weight and a reasonable description of the contents of the container or trailer."

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104-291, §204(c)(2), inserted at end "If a person inaccurately transfers the information on the certification, or fails to forward the certification to a subsequent carrier, then that person is liable to any person who incurs any bond, fine, penalty, cost (including storage), or interest for any such fine, penalty, cost (including storage), or interest incurred as a result of the inaccurate transfer of information or failure to forward the certification. A subsequent carrier who incurs a bond, fine, penalty, or cost (including storage), or interest as a result of the inaccurate transfer of the information, or the failure to forward the certification, shall have a lien against the contents of the container or trailer under section 5905 in the amount of the bond, fine, penalty, or cost (including storage), or interest and all court costs and legal fees incurred by the carrier as a result of such inaccurate transfer or failure."

Pub. L. 104-291, §204(c)(1), substituted "transportation before or when the loaded intermodal container or trailer is tendered to the subsequent carrier. If no certification is received by the subsequent carrier before or when the container or trailer is tendered to it, the subsequent carrier may presume that no certification is required." for "transportation."

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-291, §204(d), added subsec. (d). Former subsec. (d) redesignated (e).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-291, §204(d), (e), redesignated subsec. (d) as (e), added par. (1), redesignated former pars. (1) and (2) as (2) and (3), respectively, and adjusted margin of par. (2).

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 5903, 5904, 5905 of this title.

§ 5903. Prohibitions

(a) PROVIDING ERRONEOUS INFORMATION.—A person, To¹ whom section 5902(b) applies, tendering a loaded container or trailer may not provide erroneous information in a certification required by section 5902(b) of this title.

(b) TRANSPORTING PRIOR TO RECEIVING CERTIFICATION.—

(1) PRESUMPTION.—If no certification is received by a motor carrier before or when a loaded intermodal container or trailer is tendered to it, the motor carrier may presume that the gross cargo weight of the container or trailer is less than 29,001 pounds.

(2) COPY OF CERTIFICATION NOT REQUIRED TO ACCOMPANY CONTAINER OR TRAILER.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, a copy of the certification required by section 5902(b) is not required to accompany the intermodal container or trailer.

(c) UNLAWFUL COERCION.—(1) A person may not coerce or attempt to coerce a person participat-

ing in intermodal transportation to transport a loaded container or trailer having an actual gross cargo weight of more than 29,000 pounds before the certification required by section 5902(b) of this title is provided.

(2) A person, knowing that the weight of a loaded container or trailer or the weight of a tractor-trailer combination carrying the container or trailer is more than the weight allowed by applicable State law, may not coerce or attempt to coerce a carrier to transport the container or trailer or to operate the tractor-trailer combination in violation of that State law.

(d) NOTICE TO LEASED OPERATORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If a motor carrier knows that the gross cargo weight of an intermodal container or trailer subject to the certification requirements of section 5902(b) would result in a violation of applicable State gross vehicle weight laws, then—

(A) the motor carrier shall give notice to the operator of a vehicle which is leased by the vehicle operator to a motor carrier that transports an intermodal container or trailer of the gross cargo weight of the container or trailer as certified to the motor carrier under section 5902(b);

(B) the notice shall be provided to the operator prior to the operator being tendered the container or trailer;

(C) the notice required by this subsection shall be in writing, but may be transmitted electronically; and

(D) the motor carrier shall bear the burden of proof to establish that it tendered the required notice to the operator.

(2) REIMBURSEMENT.—If the operator of a leased vehicle transporting a container or trailer subject to this chapter is fined because of a violation of a State's gross vehicle weight laws or regulations and the lessee motor carrier cannot establish that it tendered to the operator the notice required by paragraph (1) of this subsection, then the operator shall be entitled to reimbursement from the motor carrier in the amount of any fine and court costs resulting from the failure of the motor carrier to tender the notice to the operator.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(d), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 860; Pub. L. 104-291, title II, §205, Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3456.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
5903(a)	49:508(a)(3) (related to violations).	
5903(b)	49:508(d).	
5903(c)	49:508(c).	

In this section, the words "may not" are substituted for "it shall be a violation" and "It shall be unlawful" for consistency in the revised title.

In subsection (a), the words "After the date on which the Secretary of Transportation issues final regulations to enforce this section" are omitted because of section 5907(b) of the revised title. The words "to fail to comply with paragraph (1) or (2)" are omitted as unnecessary because the failure to comply with an affirmative duty is a violation without the need to say so specifically. The word "false" is omitted as included in "erroneous". The word "written" is omitted as surplus.

¹ So in original. Probably should not be capitalized.