

August 11, 2006

North American Standard Bill of Lading Added to National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC)

Alexandria, VA— The National Classification Committee (NCC) has voted to add the North American Standard Bill of Lading to The National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC). The NMFC is known as the ‘industry definitive source’ by carriers and shippers alike for classifying goods for transport in North America. The NMFC provides both carriers and shippers with a standard by which to begin pricing negotiations and greatly simplifies the comparative evaluation of the many thousands of products moving in today’s marketplace.

The North American Standard Bill of Lading has been a long time in coming. Although the industry has long accepted the principle that a uniform standard bill of lading would save North American shippers and carriers time and money, the difficulty was in developing a standard that addressed the irreconcilability among the liability limitations within the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Ultimately, this difficulty was addressed through the application of the laws of the country where the shipment originates. NABOL is not meant to change substantive law in any country, but rather, to reflect it.

On February 20, 2006, after 13 years of research, discussion and negotiations, the National Law Center for InterAmerican Free Trade (NABOL Committee) decided to submit a proposal to the NCC for the standardized bill of lading. Later in 2006, it was accepted by the NCC for publication in National Motor Freight Classification version 100-AG.

The NCC and National Motor Freight Traffic Association, headquartered in Alexandria, VA, publish the NMFC in book form and through an online service ---ClassIT™.

“We are pleased to have this addition to the Classification,” stated William Pugh, Executive Director of NMFTA. “This will make handling paperwork and information easier between companies and at border crossings.”

The NMFC categorizes every type of goods and material transported by truck in North America. It is a compiled pricing tool that provides a comparison of commodities moving in intrastate, interstate and foreign commerce. Commodities are grouped into one of 18 classes-- - from a low of class 50 to a high of class 500 --- based on an evaluation of four transportation characteristics: density, stowability, handling and liability. The price for shipping goods is determined independently by each carrier based on their own formulas including distance, route, quantity and the classification of the freight. The NMFC also specifies minimum packaging requirements to ensure that goods are adequately protected in the motor carrier environment, and can be handled and stored in a manner that is reasonably safe and practicable. US law requires that any company that uses the Classification in rate making must also participate in the NMFC. For more information on the NMFC Directory, ClassIT™, The Standard Bill of Lading and/or NMFTA go to www.nmfta.org or call 800-411-NMFC (6632).