Federal Management Regulation

NOTE TO §102–117.135(b): Non-vessel Operations Common Carrier (NVOCC) or freight forwarder bills of lading are not acceptable (see 48 CFR part 47). They should be attached to the underlying ocean carrier bill of lading.

§ 102–117.140 What is cargo preference?

Cargo preference is the statutory requirement that all, or a portion of all, ocean-borne cargo that moves internationally be transported on U.S. flag vessels. Deviations or waivers from the cargo preference laws must be approved by:


§ 102–117.145 What are coastwise laws?

Coastwise laws refer to laws governing shipment of freight, household goods and passengers by water between points in the United States or its territories. The purpose of these laws is to assure reliable shipping service and the existence of a maritime capability in times of war or national emergency (see section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, 46 App. U.S.C. 883, 19 CFR 4.80).

§ 102–117.150 What do I need to know about coastwise laws?

You need to know that:

(a) Goods transported entirely or partly by water between U.S. points, either directly or via a foreign port, must travel in U.S. flag vessels that have a coastwise endorsement;

(b) There are exceptions and limits for the U.S. Island territories and possessions in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans (see §102–117.155); and

(c) The Secretary of the Treasury is empowered to impose monetary penalties against agencies that violate the coastwise laws.

§ 102–117.155 Where do I go for further information about coastwise laws?

You may refer to 46 App. U.S.C. 883, 19 CFR 4.80, DOT MARAD (800–987–3524 or www.cargo.marad@dot.gov), the U.S. Coast Guard or U.S. Customs Service for further information on exceptions to the coastwise laws.

Subpart E—Shipping Freight

§ 102–117.160 What is freight?

Freight is property or goods transported as cargo.

§ 102–117.165 What shipping process must I use for freight?

Use the following shipping process for freight:

(a) For domestic shipments you must:

   (1) Identify what you are shipping;
   (2) Decide if the cargo is HAZMAT, classified, or sensitive that may require special handling or placards;
   (3) Decide mode;
   (4) Check for applicable contracts or rate tenders within your agency or other agencies, including GSA;
   (5) Select the most efficient and economical TSP that gives the best value;
   (6) Prepare shipping documents; and
   (7) Schedule pickup, declare released value and ensure prompt delivery with a fully executed receipt, and oversee shipment.

(b) For international shipments you must follow all the domestic procedures and, in addition, comply with the cargo preference laws. For specific information, see subpart D of this part.

§ 102–117.170 What reference materials are available to ship freight?

(a) The following is a partial list of handbooks and guides available from GSA:

   (1) U.S. Government Freight Transportation Handbook;
   (2) Limited Authority to Use Commercial Forms and Procedures;
   (3) Submission of Transportation Documents; and
   (4) Things to be Aware of When Routing or Receiving Freight Shipments.