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Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-429, §6(79), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 1488, made technical amendment to chapter heading.

§ 80101. Definitions

In this chapter—

(1) “consignee” means the person named in a bill of lading as the person to whom the goods are to be delivered.

(2) “consignor” means the person named in a bill of lading as the person from whom the goods have been received for shipment.

(3) “goods” means merchandise or personal property that has been, is being, or will be transported.

(4) “holder” means a person having possession of, and a property right in, a bill of lading.

(5) “order” means an order by indorsement on a bill of lading.

(6) “purchase” includes taking by mortgage or pledge.

(7) “State” means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and a territory or possession of the United States.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1346.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
80101	49 App.:122.	Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §42, 39 Stat. 545.

In this chapter, the words “negotiable bill of lading” are substituted for “order bill”, and the words “non-negotiable bill of lading” are substituted for “straight bill”, for clarity and consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code.

In this section, before clause (1), the words “unless the context of subject matter otherwise requires” are omitted as unnecessary because of the restatement. The words “‘Action’ includes counterclaim, set-off, and suit in equity” are omitted as unnecessary. The words “‘Bill’ means bill of lading, governed by this chapter” are omitted because of section 80102 of the revised title. In clauses (1), (2), and (4), the words “‘Person’ includes a corporation or partnership, or two or more persons having a joint or common interest” are omitted because of 1:1. In clause (3), the words “personal property” are substituted for “chattels” for clarity and consistency. The words “is being” are substituted for “in course of” for clarity. In clause (7), the words

“‘State’ means a State of the United States” are substituted for “‘State’ includes” for clarity and consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the Code. The word “possession” is substituted for “insular possession, or isthmian possession” for consistency in the revised title.

§ 80102. Application

This chapter applies to a bill of lading when the bill is issued by a common carrier for the transportation of goods—

(1) between a place in the District of Columbia and another place in the District of Columbia;

(2) between a place in a territory or possession of the United States and another place in the same territory or possession;

(3) between a place in a State and a place in another State;

(4) between a place in a State and a place in the same State through another State or a foreign country; or

(5) from a place in a State to a place in a foreign country.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1346.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
80102	49 App.:31.	Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §1, 39 Stat. 538.

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

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
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

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
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

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