

(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.

#### Editorial Notes

##### 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 (including packing material and pallets), the person shall give the carrier a written”.

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).

#### § 5903. Prohibitions

(a) PROVIDING ERRONEOUS INFORMATION.—A person, To<sup>1</sup> 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 participating in intermodal transportation to transport a loaded container or trailer having an ac-

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should not be capitalized.

tual 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.

In subsection (b), the words "(as such term is defined in section 10102 of this title)" are omitted as unnecessary because of section 5901(1) of the revised title. The

word "transport" is substituted for "provide transportation of" for consistency and to eliminate unnecessary words.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-291, §205(1), inserted "To whom section 5902(b) applies," after "person".

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-291, §205(2), added subsec. (b) and struck out former subsec. (b) which read as follows: "(b) TRANSPORTING PRIOR TO RECEIVING CERTIFICATION.—A motor carrier may not transport a loaded container or trailer to which section 5902(b) of this title applies before receiving the certification required by section 5902(b)."

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104-291, §205(3), substituted "29,000 pounds" for "10,000 pounds (including packing materials and pallets)".

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-291, §205(4), added subsec. (d).

§ 5904. State enforcement

(a) GENERAL.—A State may enact a law to permit the State or a political subdivision of the State—

(1) to impose a fine or penalty, for a violation of a State highway weight law or regulation by a tractor-trailer combination carrying a loaded container or trailer for which a certification is required by section 5902(b) of this title, against the person tendering the loaded container or trailer to the first carrier if the violation results from the person's having provided erroneous information in the certification in violation of section 5903(a) of this title; and

(2) to impound the container or trailer until the fine or penalty has been paid by the owner or beneficial owner of the contents of the container or trailer or the person tendering the loaded container or trailer to the first carrier.

(b) LIMITATION.—This chapter does not require a person tendering a loaded container or trailer to a first carrier to ensure that the first carrier or any other carrier involved in the intermodal transportation will comply with any State highway weight law or regulation, other than as required by this chapter.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(d), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 861.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
5904(a) .....	49:508(f).	
5904(b) .....	49:508(h).	

In subsection (a)(1), the words "false" and "written" are omitted as surplus and for consistency with section 5903(a) of the revised title.

In subsection (b), the words "does not require" are substituted for "shall not be construed as creating any obligation or responsibility for" to eliminate unnecessary words. The words "State highway weight law or regulation" are substituted for "State statutes or regulations prescribing weight limitations for highway transportation" for consistency with subsection (a) of this section and to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 5905. Liens

(a) GENERAL.—If a person involved in the intermodal transportation of a loaded container or trailer for which a certification is required by section 5902(b) of this title is required, because