

§ 80109. Liens under negotiable bills

A common carrier issuing a negotiable bill of lading has a lien on the goods covered by the bill for—

- (1) charges for storage, transportation, and delivery (including demurrage and terminal charges), and expenses necessary to preserve the goods or incidental to transporting the goods after the date of the bill; and
(2) other charges for which the bill expressly specifies a lien is claimed to the extent the charges are allowed by law and the agreement between the consignor and carrier.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1349.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row 1: 80109, 49 App.:105, Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §25, 39 Stat. 542.

In this section, before clause (1), the word "If" is omitted as surplus. The words "covered by the bill" are substituted for "therein mentioned" for clarity. In clause (1), the words "charges for storage, transportation, and delivery (including demurrage and terminal charges)" are substituted for "all charges on those goods for freight, storage, demurrage and terminal charges . . . and all other charges incurred in transportation and delivery" as being inclusive and to conform to section 7-307 of the Uniform Commercial Code. In clause (2), the words "other charges for which the bill expressly specifies a lien" are substituted for "unless the bill expressly enumerates other charges for which a lien . . . In such case there shall also be a lien for the charges enumerated" for clarity.

§ 80110. Duty to deliver goods

(a) GENERAL RULES.—Except to the extent a common carrier establishes an excuse provided by law, the carrier must deliver goods covered by a bill of lading on demand of the consignee named in a nonnegotiable bill or the holder of a negotiable bill for the goods when the consignee or holder—

- (1) offers in good faith to satisfy the lien of the carrier on the goods;
(2) has possession of the bill and, if a negotiable bill, offers to indorse and give the bill to the carrier; and
(3) agrees to sign, on delivery of the goods, a receipt for delivery if requested by the carrier.

(b) PERSONS TO WHOM GOODS MAY BE DELIVERED.—Subject to section 80111 of this title, a common carrier may deliver the goods covered by a bill of lading to—

- (1) a person entitled to their possession;
(2) the consignee named in a nonnegotiable bill; or
(3) a person in possession of a negotiable bill if—
(A) the goods are deliverable to the order of that person; or
(B) the bill has been indorsed to that person or in blank by the consignee or another indorsee.

(c) COMMON CARRIER CLAIMS OF TITLE AND POSSESSION.—A claim by a common carrier that the carrier has title to goods or right to their possession is an excuse for nondelivery of the goods only if the title or right is derived from—

- (1) a transfer made by the consignor or consignee after the shipment; or
(2) the carrier's lien.

(d) ADVERSE CLAIMS.—If a person other than the consignee or the person in possession of a bill of lading claims title to or possession of goods and the common carrier knows of the claim, the carrier is not required to deliver the goods to any claimant until the carrier has had a reasonable time to decide the validity of the adverse claim or to bring a civil action to require all claimants to interplead.

(e) INTERPLEADER.—If at least 2 persons claim title to or possession of the goods, the common carrier may—

- (1) bring a civil action to interplead all known claimants to the goods; or
(2) require those claimants to interplead as a defense in an action brought against the carrier for nondelivery.

(f) THIRD PERSON CLAIMS NOT A DEFENSE.—Except as provided in subsections (b), (d), and (e) of this section, title or a right of a third person is not a defense to an action brought by the consignee of a nonnegotiable bill of lading or by the holder of a negotiable bill against the common carrier for failure to deliver the goods on demand unless enforced by legal process.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1349.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Rows 1-6: 80110(a) through 80110(f) with corresponding U.S. Code and Statutes at Large references.

In subsection (a), before clause (1), the words "Except to the extent a common carrier establishes an excuse provided by law" are substituted for "in the absence of some lawful excuse" and "In case the carrier refuses or fails to deliver the goods, in compliance with a demand by the consignee or holder so accompanied, the burden shall be upon the carrier to establish the existence of a lawful excuse for such refusal or failure" for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words. The word "must" is substituted for "is bound to" for clarity. The words "if such a demand is accompanied by" are omitted as unnecessary because of the restatement. In clause (1), the word "lawful" is omitted as unnecessary because of the restatement. In clause (2), the word "properly" is omitted as surplus. In clause (3), the word "agrees" is substituted for "A readiness and willingness" for clarity. The word "receipt" is substituted for "acknowledgment" for consistency. The words "if such signature" are omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (b), before clause (1), the word "may" is substituted for "is justified . . . in" because it is more accurate. In clause (1), the word "entitled" is substituted for "lawfully entitled" to eliminate an unnecessary word. In clause (3), before subclause (A), the word "if" is substituted for "by the terms of which" for clarity. In subclause (B), the words "another indorsee" are substituted for "by the mediate or immediate indorsee of the consignee" as being inclusive.

In subsection (c), before clause (1), the words "for his own benefit" are omitted as surplus. The words "nondelivery of" are substituted for "refusing to deliver" because they are more accurate. The words "according to the terms of a bill issued for them" are omitted as