

§ 80113. Liability for nonreceipt, misdescription, and improper loading

(a) **LIABILITY FOR NONRECEIPT AND MISDESCRIPTION.**—Except as provided in this section, a common carrier issuing a bill of lading is liable for damages caused by nonreceipt by the carrier of any part of the goods by the date shown in the bill or by failure of the goods to correspond with the description contained in the bill. The carrier is liable to the owner of goods transported under a nonnegotiable bill (subject to the right of stoppage in transit) or to the holder of a negotiable bill if the owner or holder gave value in good faith relying on the description of the goods in the bill or on the shipment being made on the date shown in the bill.

(b) **NONLIABILITY OF CARRIERS.**—A common carrier issuing a bill of lading is not liable under subsection (a) of this section—

- (1) when the goods are loaded by the shipper;
- (2) when the bill—

(A) describes the goods in terms of marks or labels, or in a statement about kind, quantity, or condition; or

(B) is qualified by “contents or condition of contents of packages unknown”, “said to contain”, “shipper’s weight, load, and count”, or words of the same meaning; and

- (3) to the extent the carrier does not know whether any part of the goods were received or conform to the description.

(c) **LIABILITY FOR IMPROPER LOADING.**—A common carrier issuing a bill of lading is not liable for damages caused by improper loading if—

- (1) the shipper loads the goods; and
- (2) the bill contains the words “shipper’s weight, load, and count”, or words of the same meaning indicating the shipper loaded the goods.

(d) **CARRIER’S DUTY TO DETERMINE KIND, QUANTITY, AND NUMBER.**—(1) When bulk freight is loaded by a shipper that makes available to the common carrier adequate facilities for weighing the freight, the carrier must determine the kind and quantity of the freight within a reasonable time after receiving the written request of the shipper to make the determination. In that situation, inserting the words “shipper’s weight” or words of the same meaning in the bill of lading has no effect.

(2) When goods are loaded by a common carrier, the carrier must count the packages of goods, if package freight, and determine the kind and quantity, if bulk freight. In that situation, inserting in the bill of lading or in a notice, receipt, contract, rule, or tariff, the words “shipper’s weight, load, and count” or words indicating that the shipper described and loaded the goods, has no effect except for freight concealed by packages.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1351.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES—CONTINUED

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
80113(b)	49 App.:101 (1st sentence).	Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §§20, 21, 39 Stat. 541.
80113(c)	49 App.:101 (last sentence words before proviso).	
80113(d)(1) ..	49 App.:101 (last sentence proviso).	
80113(d)(2) ..	49 App.:100.	

In subsection (a), the words “a common carrier issuing a bill of lading” are substituted for “If a bill of lading has been issued by a carrier or on his behalf by an agent or employee the scope of whose actual or apparent authority includes the receiving of goods and issuing bills of lading therefor for transportation in commerce among the several States and with foreign nations” to eliminate unnecessary words and for consistency with section 80102 of the revised title. The words “at the time of its issue” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), before clause (1), the words “A common carrier issuing a bill of lading is not liable under subsection (a) of this section” are substituted for “such statements, if true, shall not make liable the carrier issuing the bill of lading” for clarity. In clause (1), the word “goods” is substituted for “package freight or bulk freight” for consistency in this chapter. In clause (2)(B), the quoted words are placed in quotation marks for consistency and to conform to section 7-301 of the Uniform Commercial Code. The words “shipper’s weight, load, and count” are added for consistency in this section.

In subsection (d)(1), the words “makes available to the common carrier adequate facilities for weighing the freight” are substituted for “installs and maintains adequate facilities for weighing such freight, and the same are available to the carrier . . . when given a reasonable opportunity so to do” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “In that situation, inserting the words ‘shipper’s weight’ or other words of the same meaning in the bill of lading has no effect” are substituted for “and the carriers shall not in such cases insert in the bill of lading the words ‘Shipper’s weight’, or other words of like purport, and if so inserted contrary to the provisions of this section, said words shall be treated as null and void and as if not inserted therein” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (d)(2), the words “and such carrier shall not, in such cases” are omitted as surplus. The words “In that situation . . . has no effect” are substituted for 49 App.:100 (last sentence) for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “except for freight concealed by packages” are substituted for “or in case of bulk freight and freight not concealed by packages the description made by him” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 80114. Lost, stolen, and destroyed negotiable bills

(a) **DELIVERY ON COURT ORDER AND SURETY BOND.**—If a negotiable bill of lading is lost, stolen, or destroyed, a court of competent jurisdiction may order the common carrier to deliver the goods if the person claiming the goods gives a surety bond, in an amount approved by the court, to indemnify the carrier or a person injured by delivery against liability under the outstanding original bill. The court also may order payment of reasonable costs and attorney’s fees to the carrier. A voluntary surety bond, without court order, is binding on the parties to the bond.

(b) **LIABILITY TO HOLDER.**—Delivery of goods under a court order under subsection (a) of this section does not relieve a common carrier from liability to a person to whom the negotiable bill

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
80113(a)	49 App.:102.	Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §22, 39 Stat. 542; restated Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 510, §6, 44 Stat. 1450.

has been or is negotiated for value without notice of the court proceeding or of the delivery of the goods.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1352.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
80114(a)	49 App.:94 (1st par.).	Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §14, 39 Stat. 540.
80114(b)	49 App.:94 (last par.).	

In subsection (a), the word "If" is substituted for "Where" for clarity. The words "upon satisfactory proof of such loss, theft, or destruction" are omitted as unnecessary. The words "if the person claiming the goods gives a surety bond" are substituted for "and upon the giving of a bond, with sufficient surety" to clarify the condition precedent to court approval of delivery. The words "in an amount" are added for clarity. The word "indemnify" is substituted for "protect" because it is more accurate. The words "against liability under the outstanding original bill" are substituted for "from any liability or loss incurred by reason of the original bill remaining outstanding" for clarity. The words "surety bond" are substituted for "indemnifying bond" for consistency in this section.

§ 80115. Limitation on use of judicial process to obtain possession of goods from common carriers

(a) ATTACHMENT AND LEVY.—Except when a negotiable bill of lading was issued originally on delivery of goods by a person that did not have the power to dispose of the goods, goods in the possession of a common carrier for which a negotiable bill has been issued may be attached through judicial process or levied on in execution of a judgment only if the bill is surrendered to the carrier or its negotiation is enjoined.

(b) DELIVERY.—A common carrier may be compelled by judicial process to deliver goods under subsection (a) of this section only when the bill is surrendered to the carrier or impounded by the court.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1353.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
80115(a)	49 App.:103 (1st sentence).	Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §23, 39 Stat. 542.
80115(b)	49 App.:103 (last sentence).	

In subsection (a), the words "Except when a negotiable bill of lading was issued originally on delivery of goods by a person that did not have the power to dispose of the goods, goods . . . may be attached . . . only if" are substituted for "If goods are delivered to a carrier by the owner or by a person whose act in conveying the title to them to a purchaser for value in good faith would bind the owner . . . they can not thereafter . . . be attached . . . unless" to restate the source provision as an exception to conform to section 7-602 of the Uniform Commercial Code. The words "through judicial process" are substituted for "by garnishment or otherwise", and the words "levied on in execution of a judgment" are substituted for "levied upon under an execution", for clarity.

§ 80116. Criminal penalty

A person shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both, if the person—

- (1) violates this chapter with intent to defraud; or
- (2) knowingly or with intent to defraud—
 - (A) falsely makes, alters, or copies a bill of lading subject to this chapter;
 - (B) utters, publishes, or issues a falsely made, altered, or copied bill subject to this chapter; or
 - (C) negotiates or transfers for value a bill containing a false statement.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1353.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
80116	49 App.:121.	Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 415, §41, 39 Stat. 544.

In this section, before clause (1), the words "fined under title 18" are substituted for "a fine not exceeding \$5,000", and the words "shall be guilty of a misdemeanor" are omitted, for consistency with title 18. The words "upon conviction . . . punished for each offense" are omitted as unnecessary because of the restatement. Clause (1) is substituted for "or who, with intent to defraud, violates, or fails to comply with, or aids in any violation of, or failure to comply with any provision of this chapter" for clarity and because of 18:2. In clause (2)(A), the words "forges, counterfeits" are omitted as being included in "makes". The word "copies" is substituted for "prints or photographs" for clarity. The words "bill of lading subject to this chapter" are substituted for "bill of lading purporting to represent goods received for shipment among the several States or with foreign nations" for clarity and for consistency with section 80102 of the revised title. Clause (2)(B) is substituted for "utters or publishes as true and genuine any such falsely altered, forged, counterfeited, falsely printed or photographed bill of lading . . . or issues" to eliminate unnecessary words and for consistency in this section. The words "knowing it to be falsely altered, forged, counterfeited, falsely printed or photographed" are omitted as unnecessary because of the restatement of the intent required to commit the crime. The words "or aids in making, altering, forging, counterfeiting, printing or photographing, or uttering or publishing the same . . . or aids in issuing or procuring the issue of" are omitted as surplus because of 18:2. The words "as to the receipt of the goods, or as to any other matter" are omitted as unnecessary.

CHAPTER 803—CONTRABAND

- Sec. 80301. Definitions.
- 80302. Prohibitions.
- 80303. Seizure and forfeiture.
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§ 80301. Definitions

In this chapter—

- (1) "aircraft" means a contrivance used, or capable of being used, for transportation in the air.
- (2) "vehicle" means a contrivance used, or capable of being used, for transportation on, below, or above land, but does not include aircraft.