

SUBJECT 7

Re: Item (Rule) 680, Note 2(c) — Maximum Allowable Dimensions of Lift Truck Skids, Pallets or Platforms for 'Potentially Unstable Commodities'

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Proponent: Nexterus, Inc., New Freedom, Pennsylvania

Proposed Classification Provisions

It is proposed to amend Item 680, Packing or Packaging—General, to read as follows:

ITEM 680

PACKING OR PACKAGING—GENERAL

Sec. 1. (a) No Change.

Note 1—No Change.

Note 2—

(a) No Change.

(b) No Change.

(c) Maximum Allowable Dimensions of Lift Truck Skids, Pallets or Platforms for 'Potentially Unstable Commodities.' For the purpose of this rule, commodities having an overall height 1.5 times or more their shortest base dimension shall be considered potentially unstable. ⇒To provide adequate stability, such commodities may be unitized or secured on a standard lift truck skid, pallet or platform measuring not less than 40 x 40 inches nor more than 48 x 48 inches. Alternatively, the commodities may be unitized or secured on a lift truck skid, pallet or platform having maximum dimensions as determined using the following formulas. If the lift truck skid, pallet or platform exceeds the allowable length or width, the gross weight of the handling unit will be subject to the class applicable to either the lift truck skid, pallet or platform or the commodity(ies) being shipped, whichever is higher.

The **Maximum Allowable Length** is the larger result of the following calculations:

Maximum Allowable Length (in) = Commodity's(ies') Height (in) x 0.67

OR

Maximum Allowable Length (in) = Commodity's(ies') Length (in) + 12 (in)

The **Maximum Allowable Width** is the larger result of the following calculations:

Maximum Allowable Width (in) = Commodity's(ies') Height (in) x 0.67

OR

Maximum Allowable Width (in) = Commodity's(ies') Width (in) + 12 (in)

⇒This paragraph does not apply when the commodity(ies) occupies 65 percent or more of the surface area of the lift truck skid, pallet or platform.

Notes 3-4—No Change.

Sec. 1. (b)-17. No Change.

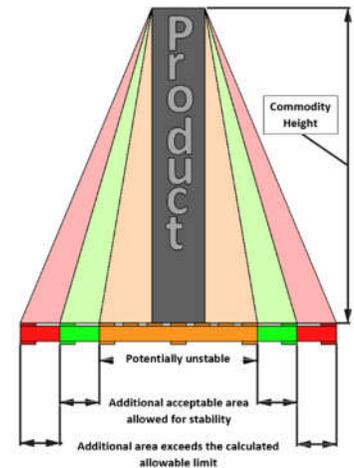
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Analysis and Conclusion

This proposal was docketed by Nexterus, Inc. to clarify the application of Item 680, Note 2(c).

When Note 2(c) was established, the intent was to minimize the use of excessively large lift truck skids or pallets to stabilize article(s) having a height-to-shortest-base-dimension ratio of 1.5 or greater. (See diagram on the right.) The proponent states that if the article(s) is (are) tendered on a standard lift truck skid or pallet¹ to provide the necessary stability, it is reasonable and consistent with the intent of Note 2(c).

Additionally, there have been recent reports of Note 2(c) being applied to handling units when the article(s) occupies(y) 65% or more of the lift truck skid or pallet deck's surface area, in compliance with Note 2(b). Note 2(c) was not intended to be applied in such instances.



Therefore, this proposal would amend Item 680, Note 2(c) to clarify the application, and reflect the original intent, of these provisions.

¹ Standard lift truck skid or pallet dimensions are considered to be 40 x 40 inches, 48 x 40 inches or 48 x 48 inches.