

SUBJECT 31

Re: Item (Rule) 680, Sec. 7(b)(3) — Requirements for Pails Unitized or Secured on Lift Truck Skids, Pallets or Platforms

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Proponent: Freight Classification Development Council

Proposed Classification Provisions

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

ITEM 680***PACKING OR PACKAGING—GENERAL**

Secs. 1-6. No Change.

Articles Secured to Skids or to Lift Truck Skids, Pallets or Platforms, or Bundled Together

Sec. 7. (a) No Change.

Sec. 7. (b)

(1) No Change.

(2) No Change.

Notes 5-6—No Change.

(3) Articles in pails complying with the construction requirements for such containers, as authorized in individual item descriptions, will be accepted when unitized or secured on lift truck skids, pallets or platforms meeting the requirements of Item 265, except spacing between deck boards must not exceed ~~3 inches~~ 25 percent of the pails' base diameter. Bottom tier of pails must firmly rest on deck boards or on a sheet of fiberboard or wood placed directly on the deck boards, and a fiberboard or wood sheet may be placed between each tier of pails. Pails must not overhang the deck, and bails or handles must not come into direct contact with one another. Stack height of pails must be less than 1.5 times the shortest dimension of the bottom tier of pails.

The entire handling unit must be wrapped with plastic film in a manner that secures the freight together and to the lift truck skid, pallet or platform, so as to withstand the normal rigors of the less-than-truckload environment. In lieu of plastic film, ~~strapping must be used around the perimeter of each tier of pails,~~ and strapping in opposing directions must be used to secure the pails to the lift truck skid, pallet or platform, with at least two straps in each direction. When strapping is used to secure the handling unit, a fiberboard or wood sheet or cap must be placed over the top tier of pails to help prevent strapping ~~and pails~~ from shifting in transit.

Secs. 7. (c)-17. No Change.

*Published in Supplement 2 to NMF 100-AV, effective August 13, 2022.

SUBJECT 31**Analysis and Conclusion**

Subsequent to the FCDC's approval of Subject 22 of Docket 2022-2 (June 2022), which established Sec. 7(b)(3) of Item 680, additional information was submitted by a member of the packaging industry.

In the submitted documentation, it was noted that pail diameters may vary and that 3 inches between the lift truck skid or pallet deck boards may be too much space to adequately support smaller pails.

Furthermore, strapping around the perimeter of each tier of pails can create too much tension, which can lead to pails shifting, heaving or nesting, and/or overhanging the lift truck skid or pallet deck.

Therefore, as proposed, Item 680, Sec. 7(b)(3) would be amended accordingly.