

SUBJECT 32

Re: Item (Rule) 680, Sec. 9(b) — Strapping Requirements for Articles Exceeding 48 Inches in Height

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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. 1-8. No Change.

Strapping or Taping of Articles or Packages

Sec. 9. (a) No Change.

Sec. 9. (b) Unless otherwise provided, article(s) or package(s) may be secured to lift truck skids, pallets or platforms with metal, plastic or synthetic fiber strapping of sufficient strength so as to withstand the normal rigors of the less-than-truckload environment. Strapping must be placed in opposing directions, with at least two straps in each direction. Additional strapping is required on handling units exceeding 48 inches in length or width. When two or more articles each ~~exceeding 48 inches in height~~ having an overall height 3 times or more than their shortest base dimension are tendered side-by-side on the same lift truck skid, pallet or platform, at least two straps must be used around the perimeter of the articles to adequately secure them together ~~so as to prevent them from moving relative to each other~~. Contact points that may be damaged by strapping must be protected by packing forms or other packaging materials.

Secs. 10-17. No Change.

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

Analysis and Conclusion

Subsequent to the FCDC's approval of Subject 23 of Docket 2022-2 (June 2022), which amended Sec. 9(b) of Item 680, additional information was submitted by a member of the packaging industry.

While, as amended, the provisions require the use of at least two straps around the perimeter of two or more articles each exceeding 48 inches in height when tendered side-by-side on the same lift truck skid or pallet, it was suggested that these requirements should apply instead to articles each having an overall height 3 times or more than their shortest base dimension. Furthermore, it was noted that while articles may be strapped to one another, they can still shift if not properly secured in a manner to prevent them from shifting relative to each other.

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Therefore, this proposal would amend Item 680, Sec. 9(b) to address these considerations.