

**CHAPTER 405—TARIFFS, SERVICE CONTRACTS, REFUNDS, AND WAIVERS**

- Sec.  
 40501. General rate and tariff requirements.  
 40502. Service contracts.  
 40503. Refunds and waivers.  
 40504. Shipping exchange registry.

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2022—Pub. L. 117-146, § 4(c), June 16, 2022, 136 Stat. 1273, added item 40504.

**§ 40501. General rate and tariff requirements**

(a) AUTOMATED TARIFF SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each common carrier and conference shall keep open to public inspection in an automated tariff system, tariffs showing all its rates, charges, classifications, rules, and practices between all points or ports on its own route and on any through transportation route that has been established. However, a common carrier is not required to state separately or otherwise reveal in tariffs the inland divisions of a through rate.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) does not apply with respect to bulk cargo, forest products, recycled metal scrap, new assembled motor vehicles, waste paper, or paper waste.

(b) CONTENTS OF TARIFFS.—A tariff under subsection (a) shall—

(1) state the places between which cargo will be carried;

(2) list each classification of cargo in use;

(3) state the level of compensation, if any, of any ocean freight forwarder by a carrier or conference;

(4) state separately each terminal or other charge, privilege, or facility under the control of the carrier or conference and any rules that in any way change, affect, or determine any part or the total of the rates or charges;

(5) include sample copies of any bill of lading, contract of affreightment, or other document evidencing the transportation agreement; and

(6) include copies of any loyalty contract, omitting the shipper's name.

(c) ELECTRONIC ACCESS.—A tariff under subsection (a) shall be made available electronically to any person, without time, quantity, or other limitation, through appropriate access from remote locations. A reasonable fee may be charged for such access, except that no fee may be charged for access by a Federal agency.

(d) TIME-VOLUME RATES.—A rate contained in a tariff under subsection (a) may vary with the volume of cargo offered over a specified period of time.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) INCREASES.—A new or initial rate or change in an existing rate that results in an increased cost to a shipper may not become effective earlier than 30 days after publication. However, for good cause, the Federal Maritime Commission may allow the rate to become effective sooner.

(2) DECREASES.—A change in an existing rate that results in a decreased cost to a shipper may become effective on publication.

(f) MARINE TERMINAL OPERATOR SCHEDULES.—A marine terminal operator may make available to the public a schedule of rates, regulations, and practices, including limitations of liability for cargo loss or damage, pertaining to receiving, delivering, handling, or storing property at its marine terminal. Any such schedule made available to the public is enforceable by an appropriate court as an implied contract without proof of actual knowledge of its provisions.

(g) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall by regulation prescribe the requirements for the accessibility and accuracy of automated tariff systems established under this section. The Commission, after periodic review, may prohibit the use of any automated tariff system that fails to meet the requirements established under this section.

(2) REMOTE TERMINALS.—The Commission may not require a common carrier to provide a remote terminal for electronic access under subsection (c).

(3) MARINE TERMINAL OPERATOR SCHEDULES.—The Commission shall by regulation prescribe the form and manner in which marine terminal operator schedules authorized by this section shall be published.

(Pub. L. 109-304, § 7, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1532.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
40501(a) .....	46 App.:1707(a)(1) (1st, 2d sentences).	Pub. L. 98-237, § 8(a), (b), (d), (f), (g), Mar. 20, 1984, 98 Stat. 74; Pub. L. 105-258, title I, § 106(a), (c), (e), (f), Oct. 14, 1998, 112 Stat. 1905, 1907.
40501(b) .....	46 App.:1707(a)(1) (last sentence).	
40501(c) .....	46 App.:1707(a)(2).	
40501(d) .....	46 App.:1707(b).	
40501(e) .....	46 App.:1707(d).	
40501(f) .....	46 App.:1707(f).	
40501(g) .....	46 App.:1707(g).	

In subsection (b)(3), the words “ocean freight forwarder” are substituted for “ocean transportation intermediary, as defined in section 1702(17)(A) of this Appendix” because the definition of “ocean transportation intermediary” in section 1702(17)(A) contains a definition of “ocean freight forwarder” which is restated as a separate definition.

In subsection (e), the word “calendar” is omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (f)(1), the words “subject to section 1709(d) of this Appendix” are omitted as unnecessary.

**§ 40502. Service contracts**

(a) IN GENERAL.—An individual ocean common carrier or an agreement between or among ocean common carriers may enter into a service contract with one or more shippers subject to the requirements of this part.

(b) FILING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each service contract entered into under this section by an individual ocean common carrier or an agreement shall be filed confidentially with the Federal Maritime Commission.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) does not apply to contracts regarding bulk cargo, forest products, recycled metal scrap, new assembled motor vehicles, waste paper, or paper waste.

(c) **ESSENTIAL TERMS.**—Each service contract shall include—

- (1) the origin and destination port ranges;
- (2) the origin and destination geographic areas in the case of through intermodal movements;
- (3) the commodities involved;
- (4) the minimum volume or portion;
- (5) the line-haul rate;
- (6) the duration;
- (7) service commitments;
- (8) the liquidated damages for nonperformance, if any; and
- (9) any other essential terms that the Federal Maritime Commission determines necessary or appropriate through a rulemaking process.

(d) **PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN TERMS.**—When a service contract is filed confidentially with the Commission, a concise statement of the essential terms specified in paragraphs (1), (3), (4), and (6) of subsection (c) shall be published and made available to the general public in tariff format.

(e) **DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN TERMS.**—

(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection, the terms “dock area” and “within the port area” have the same meaning and scope as in the applicable collective bargaining agreement between the requesting labor organization and the carrier.

(2) **DISCLOSURE.**—An ocean common carrier that is a party to or is otherwise subject to a collective bargaining agreement with a labor organization shall, in response to a written request by the labor organization, state whether it is responsible for the following work at a dock area or within a port area in the United States with respect to cargo transportation under a service contract:

(A) The movement of the shipper’s cargo on a dock area or within the port area or to or from railroad cars on a dock area or within the port area.

(B) The assignment of intraport carriage of the shipper’s cargo between areas on a dock or within the port area.

(C) The assignment of the carriage of the shipper’s cargo between a container yard on a dock area or within the port area and a rail yard adjacent to the container yard.

(D) The assignment of container freight station work and container maintenance and repair work performed at a dock area or within the port area.

(3) **WITHIN REASONABLE TIME.**—The common carrier shall provide the information described in paragraph (2) to the requesting labor organization within a reasonable period of time.

(4) **EXISTENCE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.**—This subsection does not require the disclosure of information by an ocean common carrier unless there exists an applicable and otherwise lawful collective bargaining agreement pertaining to that carrier. A disclosure by an ocean common carrier may not be deemed an admission or an agreement that any work is covered by a collective bargaining agreement. A dispute about whether any work is covered by a collective bargaining agree-

ment and the responsibility of an ocean common carrier under a collective bargaining agreement shall be resolved solely in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures contained in the collective bargaining agreement and the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), and without reference to this subsection.

(5) **EFFECT UNDER OTHER LAWS.**—This subsection does not affect the lawfulness or unlawfulness under this part or any other Federal or State law of any collective bargaining agreement or element thereof, including any element that constitutes an essential term of a service contract.

(f) **REMEDY FOR BREACH.**—Unless the parties agree otherwise, the exclusive remedy for a breach of a service contract is an action in an appropriate court. The contract dispute resolution forum may not be controlled by or in any way affiliated with a controlled carrier or by the government that owns or controls the carrier.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §7, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1533; Pub. L. 117-146, §3, June 16, 2022, 136 Stat. 1272.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
40502(a) .....	46 App.:1707(c)(1) (1st sentence).	Pub. L. 98-237, §8(c), Mar. 20, 1984, 98 Stat. 75; restated Pub. L. 105-258, title I, §106(b), Oct. 14, 1998, 112 Stat. 1905.
40502(b) .....	46 App.:1707(c)(2) (1st sentence).	
40502(c) .....	46 App.:1707(c)(2) (last sentence).	
40502(d) .....	46 App.:1707(c)(3).	
40502(e) .....	46 App.:1707(c)(4).	
40502(f) .....	46 App.:1707(c)(1) (2d, last sentences).	

In subsection (e)(5), the words “the National Labor Relations Act [29 U.S.C. 151 et seq.], the Taft-Hartley Act [29 U.S.C. 141 et seq.], the Federal Trade Commission Act [15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.], the antitrust laws” are omitted as unnecessary because of the reference to “any other Federal or State law”.

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The National Labor Relations Act, referred to in subsec. (e)(4), is act July 5, 1935, ch. 372, 49 Stat. 449, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§151 et seq.) of chapter 7 of Title 29, Labor. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 167 of Title 29 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2022—Subsec. (c)(9). Pub. L. 117-146 added par. (9).

**§ 40503. Refunds and waivers**

The Federal Maritime Commission, on application of a carrier or shipper, may permit a common carrier or conference to refund a portion of the freight charges collected from a shipper, or to waive collection of a portion of the charges from a shipper, if—

(1) there is an error in a tariff, a failure to publish a new tariff, or an error in quoting a tariff, and the refund or waiver will not result in discrimination among shippers, ports, or carriers;

(2) the common carrier or conference, before filing an application for authority to refund or