



BUILDING AMERICA™

Intermodal Bulletin

Rules/Circular

Canadian Customs Mandates Commodity Descriptions
Union Pacific Bulletin 2004-030
Effective Date: Immediately

Dear Intermodal Customer:

U.S. and Canada customs have mandated that all descriptions for cross-border shipments must be complete and accurate. In an effort to minimize delays and inspections at the Canadian/USA border, the UPRR and CPR require accurate and detailed commodity descriptions from shippers.

In these times of tightened security it is imperative that we provide more detailed and accurate descriptions of cross-border shipments. Descriptions such as FAK (Freight All Kinds), SLAC (Shippers Load and Count), Chemicals, Household Goods, Sporting Goods and Consolidated Cargo are strictly forbidden by both U.S. and Canada customs. Those descriptions simply do not specifically describe a commodity. As a rule of thumb, customs agencies advise that shippers should use terms that can be understood easily if read by the average person. Avoid use of vague catch-all phrases and industry jargon. An example of an improved description may be “Golf Clubs” and “Golf Balls” instead of “Sporting Goods”; or “Television Sets” instead of “Electronics”. The customs officer must be able to read the description and know exactly what is crossing the border.

For more details regarding documentation requirements needed for clearing Canadian customs see the CPR Web Site.

Sincerely,

Intermodal Business Unit
Union Pacific Railroad

For additional information please contact your CPR Representative
<http://www.uprr.com/customers/intermodal/intteam.shtml#imc> or get the updated schedules on myuprr.com



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Union Pacific Bulletin Draft

Effective Date: May 1, 2004

Dear Intermodal Customer:

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS - COMMODITY DESCRIPTIONS

Effective May 1, 2004 a \$500 charge per unit will be assessed in addition to the applicable linehaul charge for misdescribing non-restricted commodity shipments including misdescribing an empty as a loaded unit.

Our rules and provisions document (MITA) Item 2.3 will be updated to reflect this charge.

Sincerely,

Intermodal Business Unit
Union Pacific Railroad

For additional information please contact your UPRR Representative

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