

SUBCHAPTER B—REGULATIONS AFFECTING OCEAN SHIPPING IN FOREIGN COMMERCE

PART 515—LICENSING, FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, AND GENERAL DUTIES FOR OCEAN TRANSPORTATION INTERMEDIARIES

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Subpart A—General

§515.1 Scope.

(a) This part sets forth regulations providing for the licensing as ocean transportation intermediaries of persons who wish to carry on the business of providing intermediary services, including the grounds and procedures for revocation and suspension of licenses. This part also prescribes the financial responsibility requirements and the duties and responsibilities of ocean transportation intermediaries, and regulations concerning practices of ocean transportation intermediaries with respect to common carriers.

(b) Information obtained under this part is used to determine the qualifications of ocean transportation intermediaries and their compliance with shipping statutes and regulations. Failure to follow the provisions of this part may result in denial, revocation or suspension of an ocean transportation intermediary license. Persons operating without the proper license may

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be subject to civil penalties not to exceed \$5,500 for each such violation unless the violation is willfully and knowingly committed, in which case the amount of the civil penalty may not exceed \$27,500 for each violation; for other violations of the provisions of this part, the civil penalties range from \$5,500 to \$27,500 for each violation (46 U.S.C. app. 1712). Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation.

§515.2 Definitions.

The terms used in this part are defined as follows:

(a) *Act* means the Shipping Act of 1984, as amended by the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 and the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998.

(b) *Beneficial interest* includes a lien or interest in or right to use, enjoy, profit, benefit, or receive any advantage, either proprietary or financial, from the whole or any part of a shipment of cargo where such interest arises from the financing of the shipment or by operation of law, or by agreement, express or implied. The term "beneficial interest" shall not include any obligation in favor of an ocean transportation intermediary arising solely by reason of the advance of out-of-pocket expenses incurred in dispatching a shipment.

(c) *Branch office* means any office in the United States established by or maintained by or under the control of a licensee for the purpose of rendering intermediary services, which office is located at an address different from that of the licensee's designated home office.

(d) *Brokerage* refers to payment by a common carrier to an ocean freight broker for the performance of services as specified in paragraph (n) of this section.

(e) *Commission* means the Federal Maritime Commission.

(f) *Common carrier* means any person holding itself out to the general public to provide transportation by water of passengers or cargo between the United States and a foreign country for compensation that:

(1) Assumes responsibility for the transportation from the port or point

of receipt to the port or point of destination, and

(2) Utilizes, for all or part of that transportation, a vessel operating on the high seas or the Great Lakes between a port in the United States and a port in a foreign country, except that the term does not include a common carrier engaged in ocean transportation by ferry boat, ocean tramp, chemical parcel tanker, or by a vessel when primarily engaged in the carriage of perishable agricultural commodities.

(i) if the common carrier and the owner of those commodities are wholly-owned, directly or indirectly, by a person primarily engaged in the marketing and distribution of those commodities, and

(ii) only with respect to those commodities.

(g) *Compensation* means payment by a common carrier to a freight forwarder for the performance of services as specified in §515.42(c).

(h) *Freight forwarding fee* means charges billed by a freight forwarder to a shipper, consignee, seller, purchaser, or any agent thereof, for the performance of freight forwarding services.

(i) *Freight forwarding services* refers to the dispatching of shipments on behalf of others, in order to facilitate shipment by a common carrier, which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Ordering cargo to port;
- (2) Preparing and/or processing export declarations;
- (3) Booking, arranging for or confirming cargo space;
- (4) Preparing or processing delivery orders or dock receipts;
- (5) Preparing and/or processing ocean bills of lading;
- (6) Preparing or processing consular documents or arranging for their certification;
- (7) Arranging for warehouse storage;
- (8) Arranging for cargo insurance;
- (9) Clearing shipments in accordance with United States Government export regulations;
- (10) Preparing and/or sending advance notifications of shipments or other documents to banks, shippers, or consignees, as required;
- (11) Handling freight or other monies advanced by shippers, or remitting or

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advancing freight or other monies or credit in connection with the dispatching of shipments;

(12) Coordinating the movement of shipments from origin to vessel; and

(13) Giving expert advice to exporters concerning letters of credit, other documents, licenses or inspections, or on problems germane to the cargoes' dispatch.

(j) *From the United States* means oceanborne export commerce from the United States, its territories, or possessions, to foreign countries.

(k) *Licensee* is any person licensed by the Federal Maritime Commission as an ocean transportation intermediary.

(l) *Non-vessel-operating common carrier services* refers to the provision of transportation by water of cargo between the United States and a foreign country for compensation without operating the vessels by which the transportation is provided, and may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Purchasing transportation services from a VOCC and offering such services for resale to other persons;

(2) Payment of port-to-port or multimodal transportation charges;

(3) Entering into affreightment agreements with underlying shippers;

(4) Issuing bills of lading or equivalent documents;

(5) Arranging for inland transportation and paying for inland freight charges on through transportation movements;

(6) Paying lawful compensation to ocean freight forwarders;

(7) Leasing containers; or

(8) Entering into arrangements with origin or destination agents.

(m) *Ocean common carrier* means a common carrier that operates, for all or part of its common carrier service, a vessel on the high seas or the Great Lakes between a port in the United States and a port in a foreign country, except that the term does not include a common carrier engaged in ocean transportation by ferry boat, ocean tramp, or chemical parcel-tanker.

(n) *Ocean freight broker* is an entity which is engaged by a carrier to secure cargo for such carrier and/or to sell or offer for sale ocean transportation services and which holds itself out to the public as one who negotiates be-

tween shipper or consignee and carrier for the purchase, sale, conditions and terms of transportation.

(o) *Ocean transportation intermediary* means an ocean freight forwarder or a non-vessel-operating common carrier. For the purposes of this part, the term

(1) *Ocean freight forwarder* means a person that—

(i) in the United States, dispatches shipments from the United States via a common carrier and books or otherwise arranges space for those shipments on behalf of shippers; and

(ii) processes the documentation or performs related activities incident to those shipments; and

(2) *Non-vessel-operating common carrier* (“NVOCC”) means a common carrier that does not operate the vessels by which the ocean transportation is provided, and is a shipper in its relationship with an ocean common carrier.

(p) *Person* includes individuals, corporations, partnerships and associations existing under or authorized by the laws of the United States or of a foreign country.

(q) *Principal*, except as used in Surety Bond Form FMC-48, and Group Bond Form FMC-69, refers to the shipper, consignee, seller, or purchaser of property, and to anyone acting on behalf of such shipper, consignee, seller, or purchaser of property, who employs the services of a licensed freight forwarder to facilitate the ocean transportation of such property.

(r) *Reduced forwarding fees* means charges to a principal for forwarding services that are below the licensed freight forwarder's usual charges for such services.

(s) *Shipment* means all of the cargo carried under the terms of a single bill of lading.

(t) *Shipper* means:

(1) A cargo owner;

(2) The person for whose account the ocean transportation is provided;

(3) The person to whom delivery is to be made;

(4) A shippers' association; or

(5) a non-vessel-operating common carrier that accepts responsibility for payment of all charges applicable under the tariff or service contract.

(u) *Small shipment* refers to a single shipment sent by one consignor to one

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consignee on one bill of lading which does not exceed the underlying common carrier's minimum charge rule.

(v) *Special contract* is a contract for freight forwarding services which provides for a periodic lump sum fee.

(w) *Transportation-related activities* which are covered by the financial responsibility obtained pursuant to this part include, to the extent involved in the foreign commerce of the United States, any activity performed by an ocean transportation intermediary that is necessary or customary in the provision of transportation services to a customer, but are not limited to the following:

(1) For an ocean transportation intermediary operating as a Freight forwarder, the freight forwarding services enumerated in §515.2(i), and

(2) For an ocean transportation intermediary operating as a non-vessel-operating common carrier, the non-vessel-operating common carriers services enumerated in §515.2(l).

(x) *United States* includes the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and all other United States territories and possessions.

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999, as amended at 65 FR 15254, Mar. 22, 2000; 65 FR 26512, May 8, 2000]

§515.3 License; when required.

Except as otherwise provided in this part, no person in the United States may act as an ocean transportation intermediary unless that person holds a valid license issued by the Commission. A separate license is required for each branch office that is separately incorporated. For purposes of this part, a person is considered to be "in the United States" if such person is resident in, or incorporated or established under, the laws of the United States. Only persons licensed under this part may furnish or contract to furnish ocean transportation intermediary services in the United States on behalf of an unlicensed ocean transportation intermediary.

§515.4 License; when not required.

A license is not required in the following circumstances:

(a) *Shipper*. Any person whose primary business is the sale of merchandise may, without a license, dispatch and perform freight forwarding services on behalf of its own shipments, or on behalf of shipments or consolidated shipments of a parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or associated company. Such person shall not receive compensation from the common carrier for any services rendered in connection with such shipments.

(b) *Employee or branch office of licensed ocean transportation intermediary*.

(1) An individual employee or unincorporated branch office of a licensed ocean transportation intermediary is not required to be licensed in order to act solely for such licensee, provided that such branch offices:

(i) Have been reported to the Commission in writing; and

(ii) Are covered by increased financial responsibility in accordance with §515.21(a)(4).

(2) Each licensed ocean transportation intermediary will be held strictly responsible for the acts or omissions of any of its employees or agents rendered in connection with the conduct of its business.

(c) *Common carrier*. A common carrier, or agent thereof, may perform ocean freight forwarding services without a license only with respect to cargo carried under such carrier's own bill of lading. Charges for such forwarding services shall be assessed in conformance with the carrier's published tariffs.

(d) *Ocean freight brokers*. An ocean freight broker is not required to be licensed to perform those services specified in §515.2(n).

(e) *Federal military and civilian household goods*. Any person which exclusively transports used household goods and personal effects for the account of the Department of Defense, or for the account of the federal civilian executive agencies shipping under the International Household Goods Program administered by the General Services Administration, or both, is not subject to the requirements of subpart B of this part, but may be subject to other requirements, such as alternative surety bonding, imposed by the Department of

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Defense, or the General Services Administration.

§ 515.5 Forms and Fees.

(a) *Forms.* License form FMC-18 Rev., and financial responsibility forms FMC-48, FMC-67, FMC-68, FMC-69 may be obtained from the Commission's website at <http://www.fmc.gov>, the Director, Bureau of Consumer Complaints and Licensing, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, D.C. 20573, or from any of the Commission's area representatives.

(b) *Fees.* All fees shall be payable by money order, certified check, cashier's check, or personal check to the "Federal Maritime Commission." Should a personal check not be honored when presented for payment, the processing of an application under this section shall be suspended until the processing fee is paid. In any instance where an application has been processed in whole or in part, the fee will not be refunded. Such fees are:

(1) Application for license as required by § 515.12(a): \$799;

(2) Application for status change or license transfer as required by §§ 515.18(a) and 515.18(b): \$506; and

(3) Supplementary investigations required by § 515.25(a): \$225.

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 39860, June 11, 2002]

Subpart B—Eligibility and Procedure for Licensing

§ 515.11 Basic requirements for licensing; eligibility.

(a) *Necessary qualifications.* To be eligible for an ocean transportation intermediary license, the applicant must demonstrate to the Commission that:

(1) It possesses the necessary experience, that is, its qualifying individual has a minimum of three (3) years experience in ocean transportation intermediary activities in the United States, and the necessary character to render ocean transportation intermediary services. A foreign NVOCC seeking to be licensed under this part must demonstrate that its qualifying individual has a minimum 3 years' experience in ocean transportation intermediary activities, and the necessary

character to render ocean transportation intermediary services; and

(2) It has obtained and filed with the Commission a valid bond, proof of insurance, or other surety in conformance with § 515.21.

(3) An NVOCC with a tariff and proof of financial responsibility in effect as of April 30, 1999, may continue to operate as an NVOCC without the requisite three years' experience and necessary character to render ocean transportation intermediary services and will be provisionally licensed while the Commission reviews its application. Such person designated as the qualifying individual for a provisionally licensed NVOCC may not act as a qualifying individual for another ocean transportation intermediary until it has obtained the necessary three years' experience in ocean transportation intermediary services.

(b) *Qualifying individual.* The following individuals must qualify the applicant for a license:

(1) *Sole proprietorship.* The applicant sole proprietor.

(2) *Partnership.* At least one of the active managing partners, but all partners must execute the application.

(3) *Corporation.* At least one of the active corporate officers.

(c) *Affiliates of intermediaries.* An independently qualified applicant may be granted a separate license to carry on the business of providing ocean transportation intermediary services even though it is associated with, under common control with, or otherwise related to another ocean transportation intermediary through stock ownership or common directors or officers, if such applicant submits: a separate application and fee, and a valid instrument of financial responsibility in the form and amount prescribed under § 515.21. The qualifying individual of one active licensee shall not also be designated as the qualifying individual of an applicant for another ocean transportation intermediary license, unless both entities are commonly owned or where one directly controls the other.

(d) *Common carrier.* A common carrier or agent thereof which meets the requirements of this part may be licensed to dispatch shipments moving on other

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than such carrier's own bills of lading subject to the provisions of § 515.42(g).

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999; 64 FR 23020, Apr. 29, 1999, as amended at 65 FR 15254, Mar. 22, 2000]

§ 515.12 Application for license.

(a) *Application and forms.* (1) Any person who wishes to obtain a license to operate as an ocean transportation intermediary shall submit, in duplicate, to the Director of the Commission's Bureau of Consumer Complaints and Licensing, a completed application Form FMC-18 Rev. ("Application for a License as an Ocean Transportation Intermediary") accompanied by the fee required under § 515.5(b). All applicants will be assigned an application number, and each applicant will be notified of the number assigned to its application. Notice of filing of such application shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and shall state the name and address of the applicant and the name and address of the qualifying individual. If the applicant is a corporation or partnership, the names of the officers or partners thereof shall be published.

(2) An individual who is applying for a license in his or her own name must complete the following certification:

I, _____ (Name), _____, certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States, that I have not been convicted, after September 1, 1989, of any Federal or state offense involving the distribution or possession of a controlled substance, or that if I have been so convicted, I am not ineligible to receive Federal benefits, either by court order or operation of law, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 862.

(b) *Rejection.* Any application which appears upon its face to be incomplete or to indicate that the applicant fails to meet the licensing requirements of the Act, or the Commission's regulations, shall be returned by certified U.S. mail or other method reasonably calculated to provide actual notice to the applicant without further processing, together with an explanation of the reason(s) for rejection, and the application fee shall be refunded in full. Persons who have had their applications returned may reapply for a license at any time thereafter by submitting a new application, together with the full application fee.

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(c) *Investigation.* Each applicant shall be investigated in accordance with § 515.13.

(d) *Changes in fact.* Each applicant and each licensee shall submit to the Commission, in duplicate, an amended Form FMC-18 Rev. advising of any changes in the facts submitted in the original application, within thirty (30) days after such change(s) occur. In the case of an application for a license, any unreported change may delay the processing and investigation of the application and may result in rejection or denial of the application. No fee is required when reporting changes to an application for initial license under this section.

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999, as amended at 65 FR 15254, Mar. 22, 2000; 67 FR 39860, June 11, 2002]

§ 515.13 Investigation of applicants.

The Commission shall conduct an investigation of the applicant's qualifications for a license. Such investigations may address:

(a) The accuracy of the information submitted in the application;

(b) The integrity and financial responsibility of the applicant;

(c) The character of the applicant and its qualifying individual; and

(d) The length and nature of the qualifying individual's experience in handling ocean transportation intermediary duties.

§ 515.14 Issuance and use of license.

(a) *Qualification necessary for issuance.* The Commission will issue a license if it determines, as a result of its investigation, that the applicant possesses the necessary experience and character to render ocean transportation intermediary services and has filed the required bond, insurance or other surety.

(b) *To whom issued.* The Commission will issue a license only in the name of the applicant, whether the applicant is a sole proprietorship, a partnership, or a corporation. A license issued to a sole proprietor doing business under a trade name shall be in the name of the sole proprietor, indicating the trade name under which the licensee will be conducting business. Only one license shall be issued to any applicant regardless of the number of names under which such

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applicant may be doing business, and except as otherwise provided in this part, such license is limited exclusively to use by the named licensee and shall not be transferred without prior Commission approval to another person.

§ 515.15 Denial of license.

If the Commission determines, as a result of its investigation, that the applicant:

(a) Does not possess the necessary experience or character to render intermediary services;

(b) Has failed to respond to any lawful inquiry of the Commission; or

(c) Has made any materially false or misleading statement to the Commission in connection with its application; then, a letter of intent to deny the application shall be sent to the applicant by certified U.S. mail or other method reasonably calculated to provide actual notice, stating the reason(s) why the Commission intends to deny the application. If the applicant submits a written request for hearing on the proposed denial within twenty (20) days after receipt of notification, such hearing shall be granted by the Commission pursuant to its Rules of Practice and Procedure contained in part 502 of this chapter. Otherwise, denial of the application will become effective and the applicant shall be so notified by certified U.S. mail or other method reasonably calculated to provide actual notice.

§ 515.16 Revocation or suspension of license.

(a) *Grounds for revocation.* Except for the automatic revocation for termination of proof of financial responsibility under § 515.26, or as provided in § 515.25(b), a license may be revoked or suspended after notice and an opportunity for a hearing for any of the following reasons:

(1) Violation of any provision of the Act, or any other statute or Commission order or regulation related to carrying on the business of an ocean transportation intermediary;

(2) Failure to respond to any lawful order or inquiry by the Commission;

(3) Making a materially false or misleading statement to the Commission in connection with an application for a

license or an amendment to an existing license;

(4) Where the Commission determines that the licensee is not qualified to render intermediary services; or

(5) Failure to honor the licensee's financial obligations to the Commission.

(b) *Notice of revocation.* The Commission shall publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of each revocation.

§ 515.17 Application after revocation or denial.

Whenever a license has been revoked or an application has been denied because the Commission has found the licensee or applicant to be not qualified to render ocean transportation intermediary services, any further application within 3 years of the Commission's notice of revocation or denial, made by such former licensee or applicant or by another applicant employing the same qualifying individual or controlled by persons on whose conduct the Commission based its determination for revocation or denial, shall be reviewed directly by the Commission.

§ 515.18 Changes in organization.

(a) The following changes in an existing licensee's organization require prior approval of the Commission, and application for such status change or license transfer shall be made on Form FMC-18 Rev., filed in duplicate with the Commission's Bureau of Consumer Complaints and Licensing, and accompanied by the fee required under § 515.5(b)(2):

(1) Transfer of a corporate license to another person;

(2) Change in ownership of a sole proprietorship;

(3) Addition of one or more partners to a licensed partnership;

(4) Any change in the business structure of a licensee from or to a sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation, whether or not such change involves a change in ownership;

(5) Any change in a licensee's name; or

(6) Change in the identity or status of the designated qualifying individual, except as described in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

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(b) *Operation after death of sole proprietor.* In the event the owner of a licensed sole proprietorship dies, the licensee's executor, administrator, heir(s), or assign(s) may continue operation of such proprietorship solely with respect to shipments for which the deceased sole proprietor had undertaken to act as an ocean transportation intermediary pursuant to the existing license, if the death is reported within 30 days to the Commission and to all principals and shippers for whom services on such shipments are to be rendered. The acceptance or solicitation of any other shipments is expressly prohibited until a new license has been issued. Applications for a new license by the executor, administrator, heir(s), or assign(s) shall be made on Form FMC-18 Rev., and shall be accompanied by the transfer fee required under §515.5(b)(2).

(c) *Operation after retirement, resignation, or death of qualifying individual.* When a partnership or corporation has been licensed on the basis of the qualifications of one or more of the partners or officers thereof, and such qualifying individual(s) no longer serve in a full-time, active capacity with the firm, the licensee shall report such change to the Commission within 30 days. Within the same 30-day period, the licensee shall furnish to the Commission the name(s) and detailed intermediary experience of any other active managing partner(s) or officer(s) who may qualify the licensee. Such qualifying individual(s) must meet the applicable requirements set forth in §515.11(a). The licensee may continue to operate as an ocean transportation intermediary while the Commission investigates the qualifications of the newly designated partner or officer.

(d) *Incorporation of branch office.* In the event a licensee's validly operating branch office becomes incorporated as a separate entity, the licensee may continue to operate such office pending receipt of a separate license, provided that:

- (1) The separately incorporated entity applies to the Commission for its own license within ten (10) days after incorporation, and
- (2) While the application is pending, the continued operation of the office is

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carried on as a *bona fide* branch office of the licensee, under its full control and responsibility, and not as an operation of the separately incorporated entity.

(e) Acquisition of one or more additional licensees. In the event a licensee acquires one or more additional licensees, for the purpose of merger, consolidation, or control, the acquiring licensee shall advise the Commission of such change within 30 days after such change occurs by submitting in duplicate, an amended Form FMC-18, Rev. No application fee is required when reporting this change.

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 39860, June 11, 2002]

Subpart C—Financial Responsibility Requirements; Claims Against Ocean Transportation Intermediaries

§515.21 Financial responsibility requirements.

(a) *Form and amount.* Except as otherwise provided in this part, no person may operate as an ocean transportation intermediary unless that person furnishes a bond, proof of insurance, or other surety in a form and amount determined by the Commission to insure financial responsibility. The bond, insurance or other surety covers the transportation-related activities of an ocean transportation intermediary only when acting as an ocean transportation intermediary.

(1) Any person operating in the United States as an ocean freight forwarder as defined by §515.2(o)(1) shall furnish evidence of financial responsibility in the amount of \$50,000.

(2) Any person operating in the United States as an NVOCC as defined by §515.2(o)(2) shall furnish evidence of financial responsibility in the amount of \$75,000.

(3) Any unlicensed foreign-based entity, not operating in the United States as defined in §515.3, providing ocean transportation intermediary services for transportation to or from the United States, shall furnish evidence of financial responsibility in the amount of \$150,000. Such foreign entity will be held strictly responsible hereunder for

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the acts or omissions of its agent in the United States.

(4) The amount of the financial responsibility required to be furnished by any entity pursuant to paragraphs (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section shall be increased by \$10,000 for each of the applicant's unincorporated branch offices.

(b) *Group financial responsibility.* Where a group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries accepts liability for an ocean transportation intermediary's financial responsibility for such ocean transportation intermediary's transportation-related activities under the Act, the group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries must file either a group supplemental coverage bond form, insurance form or guaranty form, clearly identifying each ocean transportation intermediary covered, before a covered ocean transportation intermediary may provide ocean transportation intermediary services. In such cases a group or association must establish financial responsibility in an amount equal to the lesser of the amount required by paragraph (a) of this section for each member or \$3,000,000 in aggregate.

(c) *Common trade name.* Where more than one person operates under a common trade name, separate proof of financial responsibility is required covering each corporation or person separately providing ocean transportation intermediary services.

(d) *Federal military and civilian household goods.* Any person which exclusively transports used household goods and personal effects for the account of the Department of Defense, or for the account of the federal civilian executive agencies shipping under the International Household Goods Program administered by the General Services Administration, or both, is not subject to the requirements of subpart C of this part, but may be subject to other requirements, such as alternative surety bonding, imposed by the Department of Defense, or the General Services Administration.

§ 515.22 Proof of financial responsibility.

Prior to the date it commences furnishing ocean transportation intermediary services, every ocean transportation intermediary shall establish its financial responsibility for the purpose of this part by one of the following methods:

(a) Surety bond, by filing with the Commission a valid bond on Form FMC-48. Bonds must be issued by a surety company found acceptable by the Secretary of the Treasury;

(b) Insurance, by filing with the Commission evidence of insurance on Form FMC-67. The insurance must provide coverage for damages, reparations or penalties arising from any transportation-related activities under the Act of the insured ocean transportation intermediary. This evidence of financial responsibility shall be accompanied by: in the case of a financial rating, the Insurer's financial rating on the rating organization's letterhead or designated form; in the case of insurance provided by Underwriters at Lloyd's, documentation verifying membership in Lloyd's; and in the case of insurance provided by surplus lines insurers, documentation verifying inclusion on a current "white list" issued by the Non-Admitted Insurers' Information Office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. The Insurer must certify that it has sufficient and acceptable assets located in the United States to cover all damages arising from the transportation-related activities of the insured ocean transportation intermediary as specified under the Act. The insurance must be placed with:

(1) An Insurer having a financial rating of Class V or higher under the Financial Size Categories of A.M. Best & Company, or equivalent from an acceptable international rating organization;

(2) Underwriters at Lloyd's; or

(3) Surplus lines insurers named on a current "white list" issued by the Non-Admitted Insurers' Information Office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners; or

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(c) Guaranty, by filing with the Commission evidence of guaranty on Form FMC-68. The guaranty must provide coverage for damages, reparations or penalties arising from any transportation-related activities under the Act of the covered ocean transportation intermediary. This evidence of financial responsibility shall be accompanied by: in the case of a financial rating, the Guarantor's financial rating on the rating organization's letterhead or designated form; in the case of a guaranty provided by Underwriters at Lloyd's, documentation verifying membership in Lloyd's; and in the case of a guaranty provided by surplus lines insurers, documentation verifying inclusion on a current "white list" issued by the Non-Admitted Insurers' Information Office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. The Guarantor must certify that it has sufficient and acceptable assets located in the United States to cover all damages arising from the transportation-related activities of the covered ocean transportation intermediary as specified under the Act. The guaranty must be placed with:

(1) A Guarantor having a financial rating of Class V or higher under the Financial Size Categories of A.M. Best & Company, or equivalent from an acceptable international rating organization;

(2) Underwriters at Lloyd's; or

(3) Surplus lines insurers named on a current "white list" issued by the Non-Admitted Insurers' Information Office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners; or

(d) Evidence of financial responsibility of the type provided for in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this section established through and filed with the Commission by a group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries on behalf of its members, subject to the following conditions and procedures:

(1) Each group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries shall notify the Commission of its intention to participate in such a program and furnish documentation as will demonstrate its authenticity and authority to represent its members, such as articles of incorporation, by-laws, etc.;

(2) Each group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries shall provide the Commission with a list certified by its Chief Executive Officer containing the names of those ocean transportation intermediaries to which it will provide coverage; the manner and amount of existing coverage each covered ocean transportation intermediary has; an indication that the existing coverage provided each ocean transportation intermediary is provided by a surety bond issued by a surety company found acceptable to the Secretary of the Treasury, or by insurance or guaranty issued by a firm meeting the requirements of paragraphs (b) or (c) of this section with coverage limits specified above in § 515.21; and the name, address and facsimile number of each surety, insurer or guarantor providing coverage pursuant to this section. Each group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries or its financial responsibility provider shall notify the Commission within 30 days of any changes to its list;

(3) The group or association shall provide the Commission with a sample copy of each type of existing financial responsibility coverage used by member ocean transportation intermediaries;

(4) Each group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries shall be responsible for ensuring that each member's financial responsibility coverage allows for claims to be made in the United States against the Surety, Insurer or Guarantor for any judgment for damages against the ocean transportation intermediary arising from its transportation-related activities under the Act, or order for reparations issued pursuant to section 11 of the Act, or any penalty assessed against the ocean transportation intermediary pursuant to section 13 of the Act. Each group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries shall be responsible for requiring each member ocean transportation intermediary to provide it with valid proof of financial responsibility annually;

(5) Where the group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries determines to secure on behalf of its

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members other forms of financial responsibility, as specified by this section, for damages, reparations or penalties not covered by a member's individual financial responsibility coverage, such additional coverage must:

(i) Allow claims to be made in the United States directly against the group or association's Surety, Insurer or Guarantor for damages against each covered member ocean transportation intermediary arising from each covered member ocean transportation intermediary's transportation-related activities under the Act, or order for reparations issued pursuant to section 11 of the Act, or any penalty assessed against each covered member ocean transportation intermediary pursuant to section 13 of the Act; and

(ii) Be for an amount up to the amount determined in accordance with § 515.21(b), taking into account a member's individual financial responsibility coverage already in place. In the event of a claim against a group bond, the bond must be replenished up to the original amount of coverage within 30 days of payment of the claim; and

(iii) be in excess of a member's individual financial responsibility coverage already in place; and

(6) The coverage provided by the group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries on behalf of its members shall be provided by:

(i) in the case of a surety bond, a surety company found acceptable to the Secretary of the Treasury and issued by such a surety company on Form FMC-69; and

(ii) in the case of insurance and guaranty, a firm having a financial rating of Class V or higher under the Financial Size Categories of A.M. Best & Company or equivalent from an acceptable international rating organization, Underwriters at Lloyd's, or surplus line insurers named on a current "white list" issued by the Non-Admitted Insurers' Information Office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and issued by such firms on Form FMC-67 and Form FMC-68, respectively.

(e) All forms and documents for establishing financial responsibility of ocean transportation intermediaries prescribed in this section shall be sub-

mitted to the Director, Bureau of Consumer Complaints and Licensing, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573. Such forms and documents must clearly identify the name; trade name, if any; and the address of each ocean transportation intermediary.

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 39860, June 11, 2002]

§ 515.23 Claims against an ocean transportation intermediary.

The Commission or another party may seek payment from the bond, insurance, or other surety that is obtained by an ocean transportation intermediary pursuant to this section. (See also § 545.3 of this chapter.)

(a) *Payment pursuant to Commission order.* If the Commission issues an order for reparation pursuant to sections 11 or 14 of the Act, or assesses a penalty pursuant to section 13 of the Act, a bond, insurance, or other surety shall be available to pay such order or penalty.

(b) *Payment pursuant to a claim.* (1) If a party does not file a complaint with the Commission pursuant to section 11 of the Act, but otherwise seeks to pursue a claim against an ocean transportation intermediary bond, insurance or other surety for damages arising from its transportation-related activities, it shall attempt to resolve its claim with the financial responsibility provider prior to seeking payment on any judgment for damages obtained. When a claimant seeks payment under this section, it simultaneously shall notify both the financial responsibility provider and the ocean transportation intermediary of the claim by certified mail, return receipt requested. The bond, insurance, or other surety may be available to pay such claim if:

(i) The ocean transportation intermediary consents to payment, subject to review by the financial responsibility provider; or

(ii) The ocean transportation intermediary fails to respond within forty-five (45) days from the date of the notice of the claim to address the validity of the claim, and the financial responsibility provider deems the claim valid.

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(2) If the parties fail to reach an agreement in accordance with paragraph (b)(1) of this section within ninety (90) days of the date of the initial notification of the claim, the bond, insurance, or other surety shall be available to pay any final judgment for damages obtained from an appropriate court. The financial responsibility provider shall pay such judgment for damages only to the extent they arise from the transportation-related activities of the ocean transportation intermediary ordinarily within 30 days, without requiring further evidence related to the validity of the claim; it may, however, inquire into the extent to which the judgment for damages arises from the ocean transportation intermediary's transportation-related activities.

(c) The Federal Maritime Commission shall not serve as depository or distributor to third parties of bond, guaranty, or insurance funds in the event of any claim, judgment, or order for reparation.

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999, as amended at 65 FR 26512, May 8, 2000; 65 FR 33480, May 24, 2000]

§ 515.24 Agent for service of process.

(a) Every ocean transportation intermediary not located in the United States and every group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries not located in the United States which provides financial coverage for the financial responsibility of a member ocean transportation intermediary shall designate and maintain a person in the United States as legal agent for the receipt of judicial and administrative process, including subpoenas.

(b) If the designated legal agent cannot be served because of death, disability, or unavailability, the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, will be deemed to be the legal agent for service of process. Any person serving the Secretary must also send to the ocean transportation intermediary, or group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries which provide financial coverage for the financial responsibilities of a member ocean transportation intermediary, by registered mail, return receipt requested, at its address published in its tariff, a copy of each document served upon the Sec-

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retary, and shall attest to that mailing at the time service is made upon the Secretary.

(c) Service of administrative process, other than subpoenas, may be effected upon the legal agent by mailing a copy of the document to be served by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. Administrative subpoenas shall be served in accordance with § 502.134 of this chapter.

(d) Designations of resident agent under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section and provisions relating to service of process under paragraph (c) of this section shall be published in the ocean transportation intermediary's tariff, when required, in accordance with part 520 of this chapter.

(e) Every ocean transportation intermediary using a group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries to cover its financial responsibility requirement under § 515.21(b) shall publish the name and address of the group or association's resident agent for receipt of judicial and administrative process, including subpoenas, in its tariff, when required, in accordance with part 520 of this chapter.

§ 515.25 Filing of proof of financial responsibility.

(a) *Filing of proof of financial responsibility.* Upon notification by the Commission by certified U.S. mail or other method reasonably calculated to provide actual notice that the applicant has been approved for licensing, the applicant shall file with the Director of the Commission's Bureau of Consumer Complaints and Licensing, proof of financial responsibility in the form and amount prescribed in § 515.21. No tariff shall be published until a license is issued, if applicable, and proof of financial responsibility is provided. No license will be issued until the Commission is in receipt of valid proof of financial responsibility from the applicant. If more than six (6) months elapse between issuance of the notification of qualification and receipt of the proof of financial responsibility, the Commission may, at its discretion, undertake a supplementary investigation to determine the applicant's continued qualification, for which a fee is required under § 515.5(b)(3). Should the applicant

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not file the requisite proof of financial responsibility within two (2) years of notification, the Commission will consider the application to be invalid.

(b) *Branch offices.* New proof of financial responsibility, or a rider to the existing proof of financial responsibility, increasing the amount of the financial responsibility in accordance with §515.21(a)(4), shall be filed with the Commission prior to the date the licensee commences operation of any branch office. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in revocation of the license.

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 39860, June 11, 2002]

§515.26 Termination of financial responsibility.

No license shall remain in effect unless valid proof of financial responsibility is maintained on file with the Commission. Upon receipt of notice of termination of such financial responsibility, the Commission shall notify the concerned licensee by certified U.S. mail or other method reasonably calculated to provide actual notice, at its last known address, that the Commission shall, without hearing or other proceeding, revoke the license as of the termination date of the financial responsibility, unless the licensee shall have submitted valid replacement proof of financial responsibility before such termination date. Replacement financial responsibility must bear an effective date no later than the termination date of the expiring financial responsibility.

§515.27 Proof of compliance.

(a) No common carrier may transport cargo for the account of a shipper known by the carrier to be an NVOCC unless the carrier has determined that the NVOCC has a tariff and financial responsibility as required by sections 8 and 19 of the Act.

(b) A common carrier can obtain proof of an NVOCC's compliance with the tariff and financial responsibility requirements by:

(1) Reviewing a copy of the tariff published by the NVOCC and in effect under part 520 of this chapter;

(2) Consulting the Commission to verify that the NVOCC has filed evidence of its financial responsibility; or

(3) Any other appropriate procedure, provided that such procedure is set forth in the carrier's tariff.

(c) A common carrier that has employed the procedure prescribed in either paragraphs (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section shall be deemed to have met its obligations under section 10(b)(11) of the Act, unless the common carrier knew that such NVOCC was not in compliance with the tariff and financial responsibility requirements.

(d) The Commission will publish at its website, www.fmc.gov, a list of the locations of all carrier and conference tariffs, and a list of ocean transportation intermediaries who have furnished the Commission with evidence of financial responsibility, current as of the last date on which the list is updated. The Commission will update this list on a periodic basis.

APPENDIX A TO SUBPART C OF PART 515—OCEAN TRANSPORTATION INTERMEDIARY (OTI) BOND FORM [FORM 48]

Form FMC-48

Federal Maritime Commission

Ocean Transportation Intermediary (OTI) Bond (Section 19, Shipping Act of 1984, as amended by the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 and the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998) _____ [indicate whether *NVOCC* or *Freight Forwarder*], as Principal (hereinafter "*Principal*"), and _____, as Surety (hereinafter "*Surety*") are held and firmly bound unto the United States of America in the sum of \$ _____ for the payment of which sum we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, jointly and severally.

Whereas, Principal operates as an OTI in the waterborne foreign commerce of the United States in accordance with the Shipping Act of 1984, as amended by the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 and the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 ("*1984 Act*"), 46 U.S.C. app 1702, and, if necessary, has a valid tariff published pursuant to 46 CFR part 515 and 520, and pursuant to section 19 of the 1984 Act, files this bond with the Commission;

Now, Therefore, The condition of this obligation is that the penalty amount of this bond shall be available to pay any judgment or any settlement made pursuant to a claim

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under 46 CFR §515.23(b) for damages against the Principal arising from the Principal's transportation-related activities or order for reparations issued pursuant to section 11 of the 1984 Act, 46 U.S.C. app. 1710, or any penalty assessed against the Principal pursuant to section 13 of the 1984 Act, 46 U.S.C. app. 1712.

This bond shall inure to the benefit of any and all persons who have obtained a judgment or a settlement made pursuant to a claim under 46 CFR §515.23(b) for damages against the Principal arising from its transportation-related activities or order of reparation issued pursuant to section 11 of the 1984 Act, and to the benefit of the Federal Maritime Commission for any penalty assessed against the Principal pursuant to section 13 of the 1984 Act. However, the bond shall not apply to shipments of used household goods and personal effects for the account of the Department of Defense or the account of federal civilian executive agencies shipping under the International Household Goods Program administered by the General Services Administration.

The liability of the Surety shall not be discharged by any payment or succession of payments hereunder, unless and until such payment or payments shall aggregate the penalty of this bond, and in no event shall the Surety's total obligation hereunder exceed said penalty regardless of the number of claims or claimants.

This bond is effective the ____ day of _____, _____ and shall continue in effect until discharged or terminated as herein provided. The Principal or the Surety may at any time terminate this bond by written notice to the Federal Maritime Commission at its office in Washington, DC. Such termination shall become effective thirty (30) days after receipt of said notice by the Commission. The Surety shall not be liable for any transportation-related activities of the Principal after the expiration of the 30-day period but such termination shall not affect the liability of the Principal and Surety for any event occurring prior to the date when said termination becomes effective.

The Surety consents to be sued directly in respect of any *bona fide* claim owed by Principal for damages, reparations or penalties arising from the transportation-related activities under the 1984 Act of Principal in the event that such legal liability has not been discharged by the Principal or Surety after a claimant has obtained a final judgment (after appeal, if any) against the Principal from a United States Federal or State Court of competent jurisdiction and has complied with the procedures for collecting on such a judgment pursuant to 46 CFR §515.23(b), the Federal Maritime Commission, or where all parties and claimants otherwise mutually consent, from a foreign court, or where such

claimant has become entitled to payment of a specified sum by virtue of a compromise settlement agreement made with the Principal and/or Surety pursuant to 46 CFR §515.23(b), whereby, upon payment of the agreed sum, the Surety is to be fully, irrevocably and unconditionally discharged from all further liability to such claimant; provided, however, that Surety's total obligation hereunder shall not exceed the amount set forth in 46 CFR §515.21, as applicable.

The underwriting Surety will promptly notify the Director, Bureau of Consumer Complaints and Licensing, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573, of any claim(s) against this bond.

Signed and sealed this ____ day of _____, _____.

(Please type name of signer under each signature.)

Individual Principal or Partner

Business Address

Individual Principal or Partner

Business Address

Individual Principal or Partner

Business Address

Trade Name, If Any

Corporate Principal

State of Incorporation

Trade Name, If Any

Business Address

By

Title

(Affix Corporate Seal)

Corporate Surety

Business Address

By

Title

(Affix Corporate Seal)

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 39860, June 11, 2002]

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APPENDIX B TO SUBPART C OF PART
515—OCEAN TRANSPORTATION INTER-
MEDIARY (OTI) INSURANCE FORM
[FORM 67]

Form FMC-67

Federal Maritime Commission

Ocean Transportation Intermediary (OTI)
Insurance

Form Furnished as Evidence of Financial
Responsibility

Under 46 U.S.C. app. 1718

This is to certify, that the (*Name of Insurance Company*), (hereinafter "Insurer") of (*Home Office Address of Company*) has issued to (*OTI or Group or Association of OTIs [indicate whether NVOCC(s) or Freight Forwarder(s)]*) (hereinafter "Insured") of (*Address of OTI or Group or Association of OTIs*) a policy or policies of insurance for purposes of complying with the provisions of 46 U.S.C. app. 1718 and the rules and regulations, as amended, of the Federal Maritime Commission, which provide compensation for damages, reparations or penalties arising from the transportation-related activities of Insured, and made pursuant to the Shipping Act of 1984, as amended by the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 and the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 ("1984 Act").

Whereas, the Insured is or may become an OTI subject to the 1984 Act, 46 U.S.C. app. 1701 *et seq.*, and the rules and regulations of the Federal Maritime Commission, or is or may become a group or association of OTIs, and desires to establish financial responsibility in accordance with section 19 of the 1984 Act, files with the Commission this Insurance Form as evidence of its financial responsibility and evidence of a financial rating for the Insurer of Class V or higher under the Financial Size Categories of A.M. Best & Company or equivalent from an acceptable international rating organization on such organization's letterhead or designated form, or, in the case of insurance provided by Underwriters at Lloyd's, documentation verifying membership in Lloyd's, or, in the case of surplus lines insurers, documentation verifying inclusion on a current "white list" issued by the Non-Admitted Insurers' Information Office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Whereas, the Insurance is written to assure compliance by the Insured with section 19 of the 1984 Act, 46 U.S.C. app. 1718, and the rules and regulations of the Federal Maritime Commission relating to evidence of financial responsibility for OTIs, this Insurance shall be available to pay any judgment obtained or any settlement made pursuant to a claim under 46 CFR §515.23(b) for damages against the Insured arising from the Insured's trans-

portation-related activities under the 1984 Act, or order for reparations issued pursuant to section 11 of the 1984 Act, 46 U.S.C. app. 1710, or any penalty assessed against the Insured pursuant to section 13 of the 1984 Act, 46 U.S.C. app. 1712; provided, however, that Insurer's obligation for a group or association of OTIs shall extend only to such damages, reparations or penalties described herein as are not covered by another insurance policy, guaranty or surety bond held by the OTI(s) against which a claim or final judgment has been brought and that Insurer's total obligation hereunder shall not exceed the amount per OTI set forth in 46 CFR §515.21 or the amount per group or association of OTIs set forth in 46 CFR §515.21 in aggregate.

Whereas, the Insurer certifies that it has sufficient and acceptable assets located in the United States to cover all liabilities of Insured herein described, this Insurance shall inure to the benefit of any and all persons who have a *bona fide* claim against the Insured pursuant to 46 CFR §515.23(b) arising from its transportation-related activities under the 1984 Act, or order of reparation issued pursuant to section 11 of the 1984 Act, and to the benefit of the Federal Maritime Commission for any penalty assessed against the Insured pursuant to section 13 of the 1984 Act.

The Insurer consents to be sued directly in respect of any *bona fide* claim owed by Insured for damages, reparations or penalties arising from the transportation-related activities under the 1984 Act, of Insured in the event that such legal liability has not been discharged by the Insured or Insurer after a claimant has obtained a final judgment (after appeal, if any) against the Insured from a United States Federal or State Court of competent jurisdiction and has complied with the procedures for collecting on such a judgment pursuant to 46 CFR §515.23(b), the Federal Maritime Commission, or where all parties and claimants otherwise mutually consent, from a foreign court, or where such claimant has become entitled to payment of a specified sum by virtue of a compromise settlement agreement made with the Insured and/or Insurer pursuant to 46 CFR §515.23(b), whereby, upon payment of the agreed sum, the Insurer is to be fully, irrevocably and unconditionally discharged from all further liability to such claimant; provided, however, that Insurer's total obligation hereunder shall not exceed the amount per OTI set forth in 46 CFR §515.21 or the amount per group or association of OTIs set forth in 46 CFR §515.21.

The liability of the Insurer shall not be discharged by any payment or succession of payments hereunder, unless and until such payment or payments shall aggregate the penalty of the Insurance in the amount per member OTI set forth in 46 CFR §515.21 or

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the amount per group or association of OTIs set forth in 46 CFR §515.21, regardless of the financial responsibility or lack thereof, or the solvency or bankruptcy, of Insured.

The insurance evidenced by this undertaking shall be applicable only in relation to incidents occurring on or after the effective date and before the date termination of this undertaking becomes effective. The effective date of this undertaking shall be _____ day of _____, _____, and shall continue in effect until discharged or terminated as herein provided. The Insured or the Insurer may at any time terminate the Insurance by filing a notice in writing with the Federal Maritime Commission at its office in Washington, D.C. Such termination shall become effective thirty (30) days after receipt of said notice by the Commission. The Insurer shall not be liable for any transportation-related activities under the 1984 Act of the Insured after the expiration of the 30-day period but such termination shall not affect the liability of the Insured and Insurer for such activities occurring prior to the date when said termination becomes effective.

Insurer or Insured shall immediately give notice to the Federal Maritime Commission of all lawsuits filed, judgments rendered, and payments made under the insurance policy.

(Name of Agent) _____ domiciled in the United States, with offices located in the United States, at _____ is hereby designated as the Insurer's agent for service of process for the purposes of enforcing the Insurance certified to herein.

If more than one insurer joins in executing this document, that action constitutes joint and several liability on the part of the insurers.

The Insurer will promptly notify the Director, Bureau of Consumer Complaints and Licensing, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, D.C. 20573, of any claim(s) against the Insurance.

Signed and sealed this _____ day of _____, _____.

Signature of Official signing on behalf of Insurer

Type Name and Title of signer

This Insurance Form has been filed with the Federal Maritime Commission.

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 39860, June 11, 2002]

APPENDIX C TO SUBPART C OF PART 515—OCEAN TRANSPORTATION INTERMEDIARY (OTI) GUARANTY FORM [FORM 68]

Form FMC-68

Federal Maritime Commission

Guaranty in Respect of Ocean Transportation Intermediary (OTI) Liability for Damages, Reparations or Penalties Arising from Transportation-Related Activities Under the Shipping Act of 1984, as amended by the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 and the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998

1. *Whereas*

(Name of Applicant [indicate whether *NVOCC* or *Freight Forwarder*]) (hereinafter "Applicant") is or may become an Ocean Transportation Intermediary ("OTI") subject to the Shipping Act of 1984, as amended by the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 and the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 ("1984 Act"), 46 U.S.C. app. 1701 *et seq.*, and the rules and regulations of the Federal Maritime Commission ("FMC"), or is or may become a group or association of OTIs, and desires to establish its financial responsibility in accordance with section 19 of the 1984 Act, then, provided that the FMC shall have accepted, as sufficient for that purpose, the Applicant's application, supported by evidence of a financial rating for the Guarantor of Class V or higher under the Financial Size Categories of A.M. Best & Company or equivalent from an acceptable international rating organization on such rating organization's letterhead or designated form, or, in the case of Guaranty provided by Underwriters at Lloyd's, documentation verifying membership in Lloyd's, or, in the case of surplus lines insurers, documentation verifying inclusion on a current "white list" issued by the Non-Admitted Insurers' Information Office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, the undersigned Guarantor certifies that it has sufficient and acceptable assets located in the United States to cover all damages arising from the transportation-related activities of the covered OTI as specified under the 1984 Act.

2. *Now, Therefore*, The condition of this obligation is that the penalty amount of this Guaranty shall be available to pay any judgment obtained or any settlement made pursuant to a claim under 46 CFR §515.23(b) for damages against the Applicant arising from the Applicant's transportation-related activities or order for reparations issued pursuant to section 11 of the 1984 Act, 46 U.S.C. app. 1710, or any penalty assessed against the

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Principal pursuant to section 13 of the 1984 Act, 46 U.S.C. app. 1712.

3. The undersigned Guarantor hereby consents to be sued directly in respect of any *bona fide* claim owed by Applicant for damages, reparations or penalties arising from Applicant's transportation-related activities under the 1984 Act, in the event that such legal liability has not been discharged by the Applicant after any such claimant has obtained a final judgment (after appeal, if any) against the Applicant from a United States Federal or State Court of competent jurisdiction and has complied with the procedures for collecting on such a judgment pursuant to 46 CFR §515.23(b), the FMC, or where all parties and claimants otherwise mutually consent, from a foreign court, or where such claimant has become entitled to payment of a specified sum by virtue of a compromise settlement agreement made with the Applicant and/or Guarantor pursuant to 46 CFR §515.23(b), whereby, upon payment of the agreed sum, the Guarantor is to be fully, irrevocably and unconditionally discharged from all further liability to such claimant. In the case of a guaranty covering the liability of a group or association of OTIs, Guarantor's obligation extends only to such damages, reparations or penalties described herein as are not covered by another insurance policy, guaranty or surety bond held by the OTI(s) against which a claim or final judgment has been brought.

4. The Guarantor's liability under this Guaranty in respect to any claimant shall not exceed the amount of the guaranty; and the aggregate amount of the Guarantor's liability under this Guaranty shall not exceed the amount per OTI set forth in 46 CFR §515.21 or the amount per group or association of OTIs set forth in 46 CFR §515.21 in aggregate.

5. The Guarantor's liability under this Guaranty shall attach only in respect of such activities giving rise to a cause of action against the Applicant, in respect of any of its transportation-related activities under the 1984 Act, occurring after the Guaranty has become effective, and before the expiration date of this Guaranty, which shall be the date thirty (30) days after the date of receipt by FMC of notice in writing that either Applicant or the Guarantor has elected to terminate this Guaranty. The Guarantor and/or Applicant specifically agree to file such written notice of cancellation.

6. Guarantor shall not be liable for payments of any of the damages, reparations or penalties hereinbefore described which arise

as the result of any transportation-related activities of Applicant after the cancellation of the Guaranty, as herein provided, but such cancellation shall not affect the liability of the Guarantor for the payment of any such damages, reparations or penalties prior to the date such cancellation becomes effective.

7. Guarantor shall pay, subject to the limit of the amount per OTI set forth in 46 CFR §515.21, directly to a claimant any sum or sums which Guarantor, in good faith, determines that the Applicant has failed to pay and would be held legally liable by reason of Applicant's transportation-related activities, or its legal responsibilities under the 1984 Act and the rules and regulations of the FMC, made by Applicant while this agreement is in effect, regardless of the financial responsibility or lack thereof, or the solvency or bankruptcy, of Applicant.

8. Applicant or Guarantor shall immediately give written notice to the FMC of all lawsuits filed, judgments rendered, and payments made under the Guaranty.

9. Applicant and Guarantor agree to handle the processing and adjudication of claims by claimants under the Guaranty established herein in the United States, unless by mutual consent of all parties and claimants another country is agreed upon. Guarantor agrees to appoint an agent for service of process in the United States.

10. This Guaranty shall be governed by the laws in the State of _____ to the extent not inconsistent with the rules and regulations of the FMC.

11. This Guaranty is effective the day of _____, _____, 12:01 a.m., standard time at the address of the Guarantor as stated herein and shall continue in force until terminated as herein provided.

12. The Guarantor hereby designates as the Guarantor's legal agent for service of process domiciled in the United States _____, with offices located in the United States at _____, for the purposes of enforcing the Guaranty described herein.

(Place and Date of Execution)

(Type Name of Guarantor)

(Type Address of Guarantor)

By _____
(Signature and Title)

APPENDIX D TO SUBPART C OF PART
515—OCEAN TRANSPORTATION INTER-
MEDIARY (OTI) GROUP BOND FORM
[FMC-69]

Form FMC-69

Federal Maritime Commission

Ocean Transportation Intermediary (OTI) Group Supplemental Coverage Bond Form (Section 19, Shipping Act of 1984, as amended by the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 and the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998)

[indicate whether
NVOCC or Freight Forwarder], as Principal
(hereinafter “Principal”), and
as
Surety (hereinafter “Surety”) are held and
firmly bound unto the United States of
America in the sum of
\$ _____ for the payment of
which sum we bind ourselves, our heirs, ex-
ecutors, administrators, successors and as-
signs, jointly and severally.

Whereas, (Principal) _____ op-
erates as a group or association of OTIs in
the waterborne foreign commerce of the
United States and pursuant to section 19 of
the Shipping Act of 1984, as amended by the
Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 and the
Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 (“1984
Act”), files this bond with the Federal Mari-
time Commission;

Now, therefore, the conditions of this obli-
gation are that the penalty amount of this
bond shall be available to pay any judgment
obtained or any settlement made pursuant
to a claim under 46 CFR §515.23(b) against
the OTIs enumerated in Appendix A of this
bond for damages arising from any or all of
the identified OTIs’ transportation-related
activities under the 1984 Act, 46 U.S.C. app.
1701 *et seq.*, or order for reparations issued
pursuant to section 11 of the 1984 Act, 46
U.S.C. app. 1710, or any penalty assessed pur-
suant to section 13 of the 1984 Act, 46 U.S.C.
app. 1712, that are not covered by the identi-
fied OTIs’ individual insurance policy(ies),
guaranty(ies) or surety bond(s).

This bond shall inure to the benefit of any
and all persons who have obtained a judg-
ment or made a settlement pursuant to a
claim under 46 CFR §515.23(b) for damages
against any or all of the OTIs identified in
Appendix A not covered by said OTIs’ insur-
ance policy(ies), guaranty(ies) or surety
bond(s) arising from said OTIs’ transpor-
tation-related activities under the 1984 Act,
or order for reparation issued pursuant to
section 11 of the 1984 Act, and to the benefit
of the Federal Maritime Commission for any
penalty assessed against said OTIs pursuant
to section 13 of the 1984 Act. However, the
bond shall not apply to shipments of used
household goods and personal effects for the

account of the Department of Defense or the
account of federal civilian executive agen-
cies shipping under the International House-
hold Goods Program administered by the
General Services Administration.

The Surety consents to be sued directly in
respect of any *bona fide* claim owed by any or
all of the OTIs identified in Appendix A for
damages, reparations or penalties arising
from the transportation-related activities
under the 1984 Act of the OTIs in the event
that such legal liability has not been dis-
charged by the OTIs or Surety after a claim-
ant has obtained a final judgment (after ap-
peal, if any) against the OTIs from a United
States Federal or State Court of competent
jurisdiction and has complied with the proce-
dures for collecting on such a judgment pur-
suant to 46 CFR §515.23(b), the Federal Mari-
time Commission, or where all parties and
claimants otherwise mutually consent, from
a foreign court, or where such claimant has
become entitled to payment of a specified
sum by virtue of a compromise settlement
agreement made with the OTIs and/or Surety
pursuant to 46 CFR §515.23(b), whereby, upon
payment of the agreed sum, the Surety is to
be fully, irrevocably and unconditionally dis-
charged from all further liability to such
claimant.

The liability of the Surety shall not be dis-
charged by any payment or succession of
payments hereunder, unless and until such
payment or payments shall aggregate the
penalty of this bond, and in no event shall
the Surety’s total obligation hereunder ex-
ceed the amount per member OTI set forth in
46 CFR §515.21 identified in Appendix A, or
the amount per group or association of OTIs
set forth in 46 CFR §515.21, regardless of the
number of OTIs, claims or claimants.

This bond is effective the _____ day of
_____, _____, and shall con-
tinue in effect until discharged or termi-
nated as herein provided. The Principal or
the Surety may at any time terminate this
bond by written notice to the Federal Mari-
time Commission at its office in Washington,
DC. Such termination shall become effective
thirty (30) days after receipt of said notice
by the Commission. The Surety shall not be
liable for any transportation-related activi-
ties of the OTIs identified in Appendix A as
covered by the Principal after the expiration
of the 30-day period, but such termination
shall not affect the liability of the Principal
and Surety for any transportation-related
activities occurring prior to the date when
said termination becomes effective.

The Principal or financial responsibility
provider will promptly notify the under-
writing Surety and the Director, Bureau of
Consumer Complaints and Licensing, Fed-
eral Maritime Commission, Washington, DC
20573, of any additions, deletions or changes
to the OTIs enumerated in Appendix A. In

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the event of additions to Appendix A, coverage will be effective upon receipt of such notice, in writing, by the Commission at its office in Washington, DC. In the event of deletions to Appendix A, termination of coverage for such OTI(s) shall become effective 30 days after receipt of written notice by the Commission. Neither the Principal nor the Surety shall be liable for any transportation-related activities of the OTI(s) deleted from Appendix A after the expiration of the 30-day period, but such termination shall not affect the liability of the Principal and Surety for any transportation-related activities of said OTI(s) occurring prior to the date when said termination becomes effective.

The underwriting Surety will promptly notify the Director, Bureau of Consumer Complaints and Licensing, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573, of any claim(s) against this bond.

Signed and sealed this _____ day of _____, _____,
(Please type name of signer under each signature).

Individual Principal or Partner

Business Address

Individual Principal or Partner

Business Address

Individual Principal or Partner

Business Address

Trade Name, if Any

Corporate Principal

Place of Incorporation

Trade Name, if Any

Business Address (Affix Corporate Seal)

By

Title

Principal's Agent for Service of Process
(Required if Principal is not a U.S. Corporation)

Agent's Address

Corporate Surety

Business Address (Affix Corporate Seal)

By

Title

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 39860, June 11, 2002]

Subpart D—Duties and Responsibilities of Ocean Transportation Intermediaries; Reports to Commission

§ 515.31 General duties.

(a) *License; name and number.* Each licensee shall carry on its business only under the name in which its license is issued and only under its license number as assigned by the Commission. When the licensee's name appears on shipping documents, its Commission license number shall also be included.

(b) *Stationery and billing forms.* The name and license number of each licensee shall be permanently imprinted on the licensee's office stationery and billing forms. The Commission may temporarily waive this requirement for good cause shown if the licensee rubber stamps or types its name and Commission license number on all papers and invoices concerned with any ocean transportation intermediary transaction.

(c) *Use of license by others; prohibition.* No licensee shall permit its license or name to be used by any person who is not a *bona fide* individual employee of the licensee. Unincorporated branch offices of the licensee may use the license number and name of the licensee if such branch offices:

(1) have been reported to the Commission in writing; and

(2) are covered by increased financial responsibility in accordance with § 515.21(a)(4).

(d) *Arrangements with ocean transportation intermediaries whose licenses have been revoked.* Unless prior written approval from the Commission has been obtained, no licensee shall, directly or indirectly:

(1) Agree to perform ocean transportation intermediary services on shipments as an associate, correspondent, officer, employee, agent, or sub-agent of any person whose license has been revoked or suspended pursuant to § 515.16;

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(2) Assist in the furtherance of any ocean transportation intermediary business of such person;

(3) Share forwarding fees or freight compensation with any such person; or

(4) Permit any such person, directly or indirectly, to participate, through ownership or otherwise, in the control or direction of the ocean transportation intermediary business of the licensee.

(e) *False or fraudulent claims, false information.* No licensee shall prepare or file or assist in the preparation or filing of any claim, affidavit, letter of indemnity, or other paper or document concerning an ocean transportation intermediary transaction which it has reason to believe is false or fraudulent, nor shall any such licensee knowingly impart to a principal, shipper, common carrier or other person, false information relative to any ocean transportation intermediary transaction.

(f) *Errors and omissions of the principal or shipper.* A licensee who has reason to believe that its principal or shipper has not, with respect to a shipment to be handled by such licensee, complied with the laws of the United States, or has made any error or misrepresentation in, or omission from, any export declaration, bill of lading, affidavit, or other document which the principal or shipper executes in connection with such shipment, shall advise its principal or shipper promptly of the suspected noncompliance, error, misrepresentation or omission, and shall decline to participate in any transaction involving such document until the matter is properly and lawfully resolved.

(g) *Response to requests of Commission.* Upon the request of any authorized representative of the Commission, a licensee shall make available promptly for inspection or reproduction all records and books of account in connection with its ocean transportation intermediary business, and shall respond promptly to any lawful inquiries by such representative.

(h) *Express written authority.* No licensee shall endorse or negotiate any draft, check, or warrant drawn to the order of its principal or shipper without the express written authority of such principal or shipper.

(i) *Accounting to principal or shipper.* Each licensee shall account to its principal(s) or shipper(s) for overpayments, adjustments of charges, reductions in rates, insurance refunds, insurance monies received for claims, proceeds of C.O.D. shipments, drafts, letters of credit, and any other sums due such principal(s) or shipper(s).

§515.32 Freight forwarder duties.

(a) *Notice of shipper affiliation.* When a licensed freight forwarder is a shipper or seller of goods in international commerce or affiliated with such an entity, the licensed freight forwarder shall have the option of:

(1) Identifying itself as such and/or, where applicable, listing its affiliates on its office stationery and billing forms, or

(2) Including the following notice on such items:

This company is a shipper or seller of goods in international commerce or is affiliated with such an entity. Upon request, a general statement of its business activities and those of its affiliates, along with a written list of the names of such affiliates, will be provided.

(b) *Arrangements with unauthorized persons.* No licensed freight forwarder shall enter into an agreement or other arrangement (excluding sales agency arrangements not prohibited by law or this part) with an unlicensed person that bestows any fee, compensation, or other benefit upon the unlicensed person. When a licensed freight forwarder is employed to perform forwarding services by the agent of the person responsible for paying for such services, the licensed freight forwarder shall also transmit a copy of its invoice for services rendered to the person paying those charges.

(c) *Information provided to the principal.* No licensed freight forwarder shall withhold any information concerning a forwarding transaction from its principal, and each licensed freight forwarder shall comply with the laws of the United States and shall exercise due diligence to assure that all information provided to its principal or provided in any export declaration, bill of lading, affidavit, or other document which the licensed freight forwarder

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executes in connection with a shipment is accurate.

(d) *Invoices; documents available upon request.* Upon the request of its principal(s), each licensed freight forwarder shall provide a complete breakout of its charges and a true copy of any underlying document or bill of charges pertaining to the licensed freight forwarder's invoice. The following notice shall appear on each invoice to a principal:

Upon request, we shall provide a detailed breakout of the components of all charges assessed and a true copy of each pertinent document relating to these charges.

§ 515.33 Records required to be kept.

Each licensed freight forwarder shall maintain in an orderly and systematic manner, and keep current and correct, all records and books of account in connection with its forwarding business. These records must be kept in the United States in such manner as to enable authorized Commission personnel to readily determine the licensed freight forwarder's cash position, accounts receivable and accounts payable. The licensed freight forwarder may maintain these records in either paper or electronic form, which shall be readily available in usable form to the Commission; the electronically maintained records shall be no less accessible than if they were maintained in paper form. These recordkeeping requirements are independent of the retention requirements of other federal agencies. The licensed freight forwarder must maintain the following records for a period of five years:

(a) *General financial data.* A current running account of all receipts and disbursements, accounts receivable and payable, and daily cash balances, supported by appropriate books of account, bank deposit slips, canceled checks, and monthly reconciliation of bank statements.

(b) *Types of services by shipment.* A separate file shall be maintained for each shipment. Each file shall include a copy of each document prepared, processed, or obtained by the licensee, including each invoice for any service arranged by the licensee and performed by others, with respect to such shipment.

(c) *Receipts and disbursements by shipment.* A record of all sums received and/or disbursed by the licensee for services rendered and out-of-pocket expenses advanced in connection with each shipment, including specific dates and amounts.

(d) *Special contracts.* A true copy, or if oral, a true and complete memorandum, of every special arrangement or contract between a licensed freight forwarder and a principal, or modification or cancellation thereof. *Bona fide* shippers shall also have access to such records upon reasonable request.

§ 515.34 Regulated Persons Index.

The Regulated Persons Index is a database containing the names, addresses, phone/fax numbers and financial responsibility information, where applicable, of Commission-regulated entities. The database may be purchased for \$103 by contacting the Bureau of Consumer Complaints and Licensing, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573. Contact information is listed on the Commission's website at www.fmc.gov.

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 39860, June 11, 2002]

Subpart E—Freight Forwarding Fees and Compensation

§ 515.41 Forwarder and principal; fees.

(a) *Compensation or fee sharing.* No licensed freight forwarder shall share, directly or indirectly, any compensation or freight forwarding fee with a shipper, consignee, seller, or purchaser, or an agent, affiliate, or employee thereof; nor with any person advancing the purchase price of the property or guaranteeing payment therefor; nor with any person having a beneficial interest in the shipment.

(b) *Receipt for cargo.* Each receipt for cargo issued by a licensed freight forwarder shall be clearly identified as "Receipt for Cargo" and be readily distinguishable from a bill of lading.

(c) *Special contracts.* To the extent that special arrangements or contracts are entered into by a licensed freight forwarder, the forwarder shall not deny equal terms to other shippers similarly situated.

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(d) *Reduced forwarding fees.* No licensed freight forwarder shall render, or offer to render, any freight forwarding service free of charge or at a reduced fee in consideration of receiving compensation from a common carrier or for any other reason. *Exception:* A licensed freight forwarder may perform freight forwarding services for recognized relief agencies or charitable organizations, which are designated as such in the tariff of the common carrier, free of charge or at reduced fees.

(e) *In-plant arrangements.* A licensed freight forwarder may place an employee or employees on the premises of its principal as part of the services rendered to such principal, provided:

(1) The in-plant forwarder arrangement is reduced to writing in the manner of a special contract under §515.33(d), which shall identify all services provided by either party (whether or not constituting a freight forwarding service); state the amount of compensation to be received by either party for such services; set forth all details concerning the procurement, maintenance or sharing of office facilities, personnel, furnishings, equipment and supplies; describe all powers of supervision or oversight of the licensee's employee(s) to be exercised by the principal; and detail all procedures for the administration or management of in-plant arrangements between the parties; and

(2) The arrangement is not an artifice for a payment or other unlawful benefit to the principal.

§515.42 Forwarder and carrier; compensation.

(a) *Disclosure of principal.* The identity of the shipper must always be disclosed in the shipper identification box on the bill of lading. The licensed freight forwarder's name may appear with the name of the shipper, but the forwarder must be identified as the shipper's agent.

(b) *Certification required for compensation.* A common carrier may pay compensation to a licensed freight forwarder only pursuant to such common carrier's tariff provisions. Where a common carrier's tariff provides for the payment of compensation, such compensation shall be paid on any

shipment forwarded on behalf of others where the forwarder has provided a written certification as prescribed in paragraph (c) of this section and the shipper has been disclosed on the bill of lading as provided for in paragraph (a) of this section. The common carrier shall be entitled to rely on such certification unless it knows that the certification is incorrect. The common carrier shall retain such certifications for a period of five (5) years.

(c) *Form of certification.* Where a licensed freight forwarder is entitled to compensation, the forwarder shall provide the common carrier with a signed certification which indicates that the forwarder has performed the required services that entitle it to compensation. The required certification may be placed on one copy of the relevant bill of lading, a summary statement from the forwarder, the forwarder's compensation invoice, or as an endorsement on the carrier's compensation check. Each forwarder shall retain evidence in its shipment files that the forwarder, in fact, has performed the required services enumerated on the certification. The certification shall read as follows:

The undersigned hereby certifies that neither it nor any holding company, subsidiary, affiliate, officer, director, agent or executive of the undersigned has a beneficial interest in this shipment; that it is the holder of valid FMC License No., issued by the Federal Maritime Commission and has performed the following services:

(1) Engaged, booked, secured, reserved, or contracted directly with the carrier or its agent for space aboard a vessel or confirmed the availability of that space; and

(2) Prepared and processed the ocean bill of lading, dock receipt, or other similar document with respect to the shipment.

(d) *Compensation pursuant to tariff provisions.* No licensed freight forwarder, or employee thereof, shall accept compensation from a common carrier which is different from that specifically provided for in the carrier's effective tariff(s). No conference or group of common carriers shall deny in the export commerce of the United States compensation to an ocean freight forwarder or limit that compensation, as provided for by section 19(e)(4) of the Act and 46 CFR part 535.

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(e) *Electronic data interchange.* A licensed freight forwarder may own, operate, or otherwise maintain or supervise an electronic data interchange-based computer system in its forwarding business; however, the forwarder must directly perform value-added services as described in paragraph (c) of this section in order to be entitled to carrier compensation.

(f) *Compensation; services performed by underlying carrier; exemptions.* No licensed freight forwarder shall charge or collect compensation in the event the underlying common carrier, or its agent, has, at the request of such forwarder, performed any of the forwarding services set forth in § 515.2(i), unless such carrier or agent is also a licensed freight forwarder, or unless no other licensed freight forwarder is willing and able to perform such services.

(g) *Duplicative compensation.* A common carrier shall not pay compensation for the services described in paragraph (c) of this section more than once on the same shipment.

(h) *Non-vessel-operating common carriers; compensation.* (1) A licensee operating as an NVOCC and a freight forwarder, or a person related thereto, may collect compensation when, and only when, the following certification is made together with the certification required under paragraph (c) of this section:

The undersigned certifies that neither it nor any related person has issued a bill of lading or otherwise undertaken common carrier responsibility as a non-vessel-operating common carrier for the ocean transportation of the shipment covered by this bill of lading.

(2) Whenever a person acts in the capacity of an NVOCC as to any shipment, such person shall not collect compensation, nor shall any underlying ocean common carrier pay compensation to such person, for such shipment.

(i) *Compensation; beneficial interest.* A licensed freight forwarder may not receive compensation from a common carrier with respect to any shipment in which the forwarder has a beneficial interest or with respect to any shipment in which any holding company, subsidiary, affiliate, officer, director,

agent, or executive of such forwarder has a beneficial interest.

§ 515.91 OMB control number assigned pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

The Commission has received OMB approval for this collection of information pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. In accordance with that Act, agencies are required to display a currently valid control number. The valid control number for this collection of information is 3072-0012.

PART 520—CARRIER AUTOMATED TARIFFS

Sec.

- 520.1 Scope and purpose.
- 520.2 Definitions.
- 520.3 Publication responsibilities.
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- 520.11 Non-vessel-operating common carriers.
- 520.12 Time/Volume rates.
- 520.13 Exemptions and exceptions.
- 520.14 Special permission.
- 520.91 OMB control number assigned pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

APPENDIX A TO PART 520—STANDARD TERMINOLOGY AND CODES

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 553; 46 U.S.C. app. 1701-1702, 1707-1709, 1712, 1716; and sec. 424 of Pub. L. 105-383, 112 Stat. 3411.

SOURCE: 64 FR 11225, Mar. 8, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 520.1 Scope and purpose.

(a) *Scope.* The regulations of this part govern the publication of tariffs in automated systems by common carriers and conferences in the waterborne foreign commerce of the United States. They cover the transportation of property by such carriers, including through transportation with inland carriers. They implement the tariff publication requirements of section 8 of the Shipping Act of 1984 ("Act"), as modified by the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 and section 424 of Public Law 105-258.