

WHAT ACTIONS MAY MY MOVER TAKE TO COLLECT FROM ME THE CHARGES IN ITS FREIGHT BILL?

Your mover must present a freight bill within 15 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays) of the date of delivery of a shipment at your destination. (Bills for additional charges based on the weight of the shipment will be presented 30 days after delivery; charges for impracticable operations not paid at delivery are due within 30 days of the invoice.)

Your mover must provide in its tariffs the following three things:

(1) A provision indicating its credit period is a total of 30 calendar days.

(2) A provision indicating you will be assessed a service charge by your mover equal to one percent of the amount of the freight bill, subject to a \$20 minimum charge, for the extension of the credit period. The mover will assess the service charge for each 30-day extension that the charges go unpaid.

(3) A provision that your mover must deny credit to you if you fail to pay a duly presented freight bill within the 30-day period. Your mover may grant credit to you, at its discretion, when you satisfy your mover's condition that you will pay all future freight bills duly presented. Your mover must ensure all your payments of freight bills are strictly in accordance with Federal rules and regulations for the settlement of its rates and charges.

DO I HAVE A RIGHT TO FILE A CLAIM TO RECOVER MONEY FOR PROPERTY MY MOVER LOST OR DAMAGED?

Should your move result in the loss of or damage to any of your property, you have the right to file a claim with your mover to recover money for such loss or damage.

You should file a claim as soon as possible. If you fail to file a claim within 9 months, your mover may not be required to accept your claim. If you institute a court action and win, you may be entitled to attorney's fees if you submitted your claim to the carrier within 120 days after delivery or the scheduled date of delivery (whichever is later), and (1) the mover did not advise you during the claim settlement process of the availability of arbitration as a means for resolving the dispute; (2) a decision was not rendered through arbitration within the time required by law; or (3) you are instituting a court action to enforce an arbitration decision with which the mover has not complied.

While the Federal Government maintains regulations governing the processing of loss and damage claims (49 CFR part 370), it cannot resolve those claims. If you cannot settle a claim with the mover, you may file a civil action to recover your claim in court under 49 U.S.C. 14706. You may obtain the name

and address of the mover's agent for service of legal process in your State by contacting the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. You may also obtain the name of a process agent via the Internet. Go to <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov> then click on Licensing and Insurance (L&I) section.

In addition, your mover must participate in an arbitration program. As described earlier in this pamphlet, an arbitration program gives you the opportunity to settle, through a neutral arbitrator, certain types of unresolved loss or damage claims and disputes regarding charges that were billed to you by your mover after your shipment was delivered. You may find submitting your claim to arbitration under such a program to be a less expensive and more convenient way to seek recovery of your claim. Your mover is required to provide you with information about its arbitration program before you move. If your mover fails to do so, ask the mover for details of its program.

SUBPART I—RESOLVING DISPUTES WITH MY MOVER**WHAT MAY I DO TO RESOLVE DISPUTES WITH MY MOVER?***The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Does Not Help You Settle Your Dispute With Your Mover*

Generally, you must resolve your own loss and damage disputes with your mover. You enter a contractual arrangement with your mover. You are bound by each of the following three things:

(1) The terms and conditions you negotiated before your move.

(2) The terms and conditions you accepted when you signed the bill of lading.

(3) The terms and conditions you accepted when you signed for delivery of your goods.

You have the right to take your mover to court. We require your mover to offer you arbitration to settle your disputes with it.

[72 FR 36775, July 5, 2007]

PART 376—LEASE AND INTERCHANGE OF VEHICLES**Subpart A—General Applicability and Definitions**

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AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 13301 and 14102; and 49 CFR 1.73.

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Subpart A—General Applicability and Definitions

§ 376.1 Applicability.

The regulations in this part apply to the following actions by motor carriers registered with the Secretary to transportation property:

- (a) The leasing of equipment with which to perform transportation regulated by the Secretary.
- (b) The leasing of equipment to motor private carrier or shippers.
- (c) The interchange of equipment between motor common carriers in the performance of transportation regulated by the Secretary.

[44 FR 4681, Jan. 23, 1979. Redesignated at 61 FR 54707, Oct. 21, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 15423, Apr. 1, 1997]

§ 376.2 Definitions.

- (a) *Authorized carrier.* A person or persons authorized to engage in the transportation of property as a motor carrier under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 13901 and 13902.
- (b) *Equipment.* A motor vehicle, straight truck, tractor, semitrailer, full trailer, any combination of these and any other type of equipment used by authorized carriers in the transportation of property for hire.
- (c) *Interchange.* The receipt of equipment by one motor common carrier of

property from another such carrier, at a point which both carriers are authorized to serve, with which to continue a through movement.

(d) *Owner.* A person (1) to whom title to equipment has been issued, or (2) who, without title, has the right to exclusive use of equipment, or (3) who has lawful possession of equipment registered and licensed in any State in the name of that person.

(e) *Lease.* A contract or arrangement in which the owner grants the use of equipment, with or without driver, for a specified period to an authorized carrier for use in the regulated transportation of property, in exchange for compensation.

(f) *Lessor.* In a lease, the party granting the use of equipment, with or without driver, to another.

(g) *Lessee.* In a lease, the party acquiring the use of equipment with or without driver, from another.

(h) *Sublease.* A written contract in which the lessee grants the use of leased equipment, with or without driver, to another.

(i) *Addendum.* A supplement to an existing lease which is not effective until signed by the lessor and lessee.

(j) *Private carrier.* A person, other than a motor carrier, transporting property by motor vehicle in interstate or foreign commerce when (1) the person is the owner, lessee, or bailee of the property being transported; and (2) the property is being transported for sale, lease, rent, or bailment, or to further a commercial enterprise.

(k) *Shipper.* A person who sends or receives property which is transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

(l) *Escrow fund.* Money deposited by the lessor with either a third party or the lessee to guarantee performance, to repay advances, to cover repair expenses, to handle claims, to handle license and State permit costs, and for any other purposes mutually agreed upon by the lessor and lessee.

(m) *Detention.* The holding by a consignor or consignee of a trailer, with or without power unit and driver, beyond