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SERVICE DATE - AUGUST 30, 2011

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. RR 999 (Amendment No. 5)

RELEASED RATES OF MOTOR COMMON CARRIERS
OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Digest:¹ The effective date of the decision served January 21, 2011, in this proceeding is extended from November 1, 2011, until after issuance of a future decision.

Decided: August 26, 2011

By decision served January 21, 2011 (January Decision), and notice published in the Federal Register on January 31, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 5,431), the Board made two changes to the rules applicable to the interstate movement of household goods to ensure that consumers understand the options available to help protect them financially if their goods are lost or damaged during a move. As a result of these changes, moving companies will be required to make substantial modifications to the forms and publications they provide to consumers. The Board also asked for public comment, on or by March 15, 2011, concerning its conditional acceptance of a new figure: \$6.00 to represent the average per-pound replacement value for household goods.

Three parties² sought clarification of certain parts of the January Decision and asked us to postpone the effective date of the January Decision until after any clarifications are made. In response, the Board served a decision on March 11, 2011, postponing the effective date of the January Decision until November 1, 2011, to allow the Board to rule on the requests for clarification and to give moving companies sufficient time to amend and print their publications.

In a letter filed on July 18, 2011, a commenter, Joseph M. Harrison, asked the Board to issue a decision on the clarification requests no later than August 31, 2011, in order to give moving companies sufficient time to amend and print their publications by the November 1, 2011 effective date. Mr. Harrison explains that it will require a lengthy time to advise and

¹ The digest constitutes no part of the decision of the Board but has been prepared for the convenience of the reader. It may not be cited to or relied upon as precedent. Policy Statement on Plain Language Digests in Decisions, EP 696 (STB served Sept. 2, 2010).

² The parties are two consultants to the industry, Patricia Jennings and Joseph M. Harrison, and American Moving and Storage Association (AMSA), an association for the moving industry.

educate thousands of affected moving companies about, and for the companies to meet, any new paperwork requirements.

The Board expects to issue a decision later this year on the requested clarifications. Accordingly, the November 1, 2011 effective date will be extended until a sufficient time after issuance of a decision on the requested clarifications to permit moving companies to receive notice of, and effectuate, any required changes in the forms and publications they provide to consumers.

It is ordered:

1. The effective date of the January Decision is postponed until after the issuance of a further decision.
2. This decision is effective on its date of service.

By the Board, Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Begeman, and Commissioner Mulvey.