

Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001
Office of Economics

May 30, 2024

Dr. Charles Moul
Mr. Aaron Garner
Department of Economics
Miami University Farmer School of Business
83 N Patterson Ave
Oxford, OH 45056

Re: Waybill Request WB24-27

Dear Sirs:

The Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) has approved your request to extend your access to the STB Carload Waybill Samples for the unmasked 1984-2019 confidential Carload Waybill Sample (CCWS) originally obtained in WB21-40 and later extended in WB22-24 and WB23-37. This data may only be used for the academic purpose detailed in your request and may not be used for any other purpose such as private, commercial consulting. ***This approval becomes effective when signed agreements from the individuals listed below are received by the STB:***

- a) *Charles Moul – Miami University*
- b) *Aaron Garner – Federal Reserve Board*

The expiration date for this agreement is May 31, 2025. Unless you seek and obtain a renewal from the STB, this agreement upon expiration obligates you to return or destroy all copies of the data (see item 6 of the agreement). Any request for renewal will need to provide a detailed explanation for why continued access to the data is necessary and demonstrate that you are continuing to actively use the data for the originally requested purpose.

Several aspects of the CCWS limit the conclusions that may be drawn from analysis of the CCWS: 1) the CCWS is a sample, and 2) the CCWS is based on terminating shipments from relatively large carriers. Only those railroads with more than 4,500 annual terminating carloads are included in the sample. The limited sampling of small railroads may have a substantial effect on studies covering areas served predominately by non-sampled railroads. For additional information on the CCWS, see *Reference Guide* @ <https://www.stb.gov/reports-data/waybill/> on the Board's website.

The rules for release of waybill data are codified at 49 C.F.R. § 1244.9. The CCWS contains confidential shipper and railroad data. As a result, the CCWS is commercially sensitive and has the potential to cause competitive harm to shippers and railroads if disclosed. Therefore, the following agreement must be signed, and a copy of the signature pages returned to the STB, before any waybill data can be used.

Waybill Agreement WB24-27

Your signature acknowledges your agreement to comply with the following:

1. You will use the CCWS data released to you solely for the purpose requested.
2. Absent permission from the STB, you shall make the information contained in the CCWS (including work product and analyses derived from the CCWS) available only to the individuals identified above. The STB may approve access for additional individuals within your entity working on the particular project or study requiring the waybill data. Each such additional individual must review and sign this agreement, and return a copy of the signature page to the STB.
3. You will not release any CCWS data (including work product and analyses derived from the CCWS) to anyone who has not signed this agreement and been approved for access by the STB until the STB has had the opportunity to review the materials proposed for disclosure to ensure confidentiality.
4. You acknowledge that, in addition to the restrictions described in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, you are bound by the STB's rules governing use and disclosure of CCWS data. These include the confidentiality provisions of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1244.9(f)(1)-(3), which require that "[a]ny shipper data obtained from the Waybill Sample shall not be publicly released unless the data are aggregated to include at least three shippers." In addition, you agree not to disclose CCWS data that permits identification of an individual railroad.
5. You will refer any requests for CCWS data in your possession (including work product and analyses derived from the CCWS) to the STB for processing and will inform the requesting party of such referral to the STB. If you are compelled by law or order of a governmental or judicial body to release CCWS data, you shall notify the Board in writing within three days of any determination that CCWS data must be released, and in no event later than five days before the CCWS data is scheduled to be released.
6. In order to retain access to the CCWS beyond the expiration date specified above, you must submit a written request for an annual extension of the agreement no later than thirty days prior to the expiration date and the renewal request must be approved by the Office of Economics. **If an annual agreement is not signed and approved, you must certify by no later than the expiration date that all CCWS data (including all work product and analyses derived from the CCWS) obtained under this agreement has been destroyed or returned to the STB.**

Waybill Agreement WB24-27

7. Failure to request an extension (if necessary), or destroy or return CCWS data when required, may prevent any future release of CCWS data to you. Violations of this agreement may subject you to sanctions by the Board.

After all parties have signed and returned this agreement, the extension is granted.

Sincerely,

KRISTEN
MONACO

Digitally signed by
KRISTEN MONACO
Date: 2024.05.30
12:46:07 -04'00'

Kristen Monaco, PhD
Director
Office of Economics

Waybill Agreement WB24-27

I have read and understand the conditions for release of the CCWS data. I agree to comply fully with these conditions and the provisions of this confidentiality agreement. No later than thirty days before the agreement expires, I will request an extension of this agreement, if necessary. If no extension is requested, I will return or destroy all CCWS data and certify that I have done so. I have the authority to sign this agreement.

By: Charles Moul

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles C. Moul", written over a horizontal line.

Signature

Waybill Agreement WB24-27

I have read and understand the conditions for release of the CCWS data. I agree to comply fully with these conditions and the provisions of this confidentiality agreement. No later than thirty days before the agreement expires, I will request an extension of this agreement, if necessary. If no extension is requested, I will return or destroy all CCWS data and certify that I have done so. I have the authority to sign this agreement.

By: Aaron Garner

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aaron P. Garner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature

May 29, 2024

Kristen Monaco, Director
Office of Economics
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Extension Request for Unmasked Waybill Sample Data

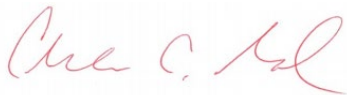
Dear Dr. Monaco:

We cordially request an extension of access to the confidential carload waybill sample (CCWS) originally obtained in WB21-40 and extended in WB22-24 and WB23-37.

Over the last year, we updated and revised our article *Partitioned pricing in firm-to-firm transactions and market power: The Case of Rail Fuel Surcharges*. We submitted this article for confidentiality review to the STB on February 27, 2024 before submitting to a peer-reviewed economics journal. As part of the ongoing peer-review process, we need continued CCWS access to proceed with robustness checks requested by referees and editors. Because the peer-review process will extend past the expiration of our current CCWS access, we request access to the CCWS for another year.

Please let us know if you have any questions, and we appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Charles Moul, Ph.D.
Department of Economics
Miami University Farmer School of Business
83 N Patterson Ave
Oxford, OH 45056
moulcc@miamioh.edu
513-529-2867



Aaron Garner
Department of Research and Statistics
Federal Reserve Board
20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20551
aaron.garner@frb.gov