

SERVICE DATE – MARCH 11, 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 April 1, 2011, to November 1, 2011.

Decided: March 10, 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 seek clarification of certain parts of the January Decision. These parties also note that the \$6.00 per-pound figure could change as a result of future comments that are not due until March 15. Therefore, according to these parties, moving companies likely will not begin to amend the documents and information provided to consumers until after March 15. Finally, these parties maintain that, during moving companies' busy season (Spring through early Autumn), it would be very difficult for movers to amend and print their publications. Accordingly, the three parties ask us to postpone the effective date of the January Decision.

In light of these circumstances, we will postpone the effective date of the January Decision until November 1, 2011—after this year's busy season. This extension will allow the Board to rule on the requests for clarification and will give the moving companies sufficient time

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. AMSA has asked for expedited consideration of its request.

to amend and print their publications. We will address the requests for clarification in a separate decision.

It is ordered:

1. The effective date of the January Decision is postponed until November 1, 2011.
2. This decision is effective on its date of service.

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