



Vague Cargo Descriptions

Dear Valued HMM Customer,

Please be advised that United States Customs is strictly enforcing requirements for precise, or specific, description of cargo for U.S. Imports.

CBP is aiming to address vague cargo descriptions including, but not limited to, gift, daily necessities, accessories, parts, and consolidated goods.

Descriptions such as FAK, General Cargo, Said to Contain, Chemicals, and Foodstuffs are also not acceptable descriptions.

Examples of Unacceptable vs Acceptable Cargo Descriptions can be found on the CBP website at:

<https://www.cbp.gov/trade/basic-import-export/e-commerce>

Vague Cargo Descriptions will result in "6H DO NOT LOAD" hold placed by US Customs. These shipments cannot load the vessel until the hold has been released.

Please ensure to provide precise description of the cargo on your Shipping Instructions (Commodity for Declaration) and on your house bills to avoid holds, delays and potential operational fees if the Hold is not removed in time for the scheduled sailing.

Customs and Trade Automated Interface Requirements

<i>Disposition Codes</i>		
<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
6H	No Load	Generated by CBP. Cargo should not be loaded to a vessel sailing or transiting CBP territory.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Cargo Systems Messaging Service

CSMS # 60011750 - Announcement of Vague Merchandise Description Cargo Messages

On April 1, 2024, CBP will nationally implement cargo messaging to communicate with the entry filer on shipments that have vague noncompliant cargo descriptions.

19 CFR § 4.7a, 122.48a, 123.91, 123.92 and 128.21 require a precise, or specific, description of the merchandise. Carriers and other parties electing to file electronic cargo information data to CBP are required to provide a precise description of the cargo.

Specifically, CBP is aiming to address vague cargo descriptions including, but not limited to, “gift,” “daily necessities,” “accessories,” “parts,” and “consolidated.” “Consolidated” is only acceptable at the master bill level.

In most cases, messages will be sent via ACE Cargo Release *after* release of the cargo. Brokers and importers are expected to process these messages and work to correct the issue with the shipper and bill of lading issuer for compliance on future shipments.

Below is an example of a cargo message for a de minimis shipment transmitted with a vague cargo description:

ecommerce@cbp.dhs.gov Cargo description unacceptably vague. A precise description is required.

Brokers and Freight Forwarders who self-file House Bills are held to the same standard as carriers and are expected to screen data for compliance with cargo declaration regulations. The entry filer is expected to review the cargo messages for compliance when concerns are identified. If the entry filer and bill of lading filer are the same, corrective action is expected immediately. If CBP identifies any enforcement concerns, CBP may take additional actions.

For general questions, or concerns about specific vague description cargo messages, please email ecommerce@cbp.dhs.gov.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Cargo Systems Messaging Service

CSMS # 60144714 - Update on Vague Merchandise Description Cargo Messages

This is an update to [CSMS #60011750](#), published on April 1, 2024.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has implemented nationwide cargo messaging to communicate with the entry filer on shipments that have vague noncompliant cargo descriptions.

19 CFR § 4.7a, 122.48a, 123.91, 123.92 and 128.21 require a precise, or specific, description of the merchandise.

This messaging will be sent in the SO20 record (position 8-57) with a Reference Identifier Qualifier "CMT" within the ACE Cargo Release Status Notification message.

In most cases, messages will be sent via ACE Cargo Release after release of the cargo. Brokers and importers are expected to process these messages and work to correct the issue with the shipper and bill of lading issuer for compliance on future shipments.

Cargo description unacceptably vague. A precise description is required.

Brokers and Freight Forwarders who self-file House Bills are held to the same standard as carriers and are expected to screen data for compliance with cargo declaration regulations. When the entry filer and bill of lading filer are the same, corrective action is expected immediately. If CBP identifies any enforcement concerns, CBP may take additional actions. In instances where the entry filer and bill of lading filer are not the same party, CBP encourages the entry filer to communicate the issue to the bill of lading filer but is not required to do so.

Entry filers who do not file the bill data should also be advised that the notification message will indicate that the entry transaction, which has a 10-digit Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) classification, is associated with a bill that included an unacceptably vague cargo description. The entry filer is required to demonstrate upon request how the classification was determined.

A list of unacceptable cargo descriptions can be found on the CBP website at: <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/basic-import-export/e-commerce>.

CBP is aiming to address vague cargo descriptions including, but not limited to, "gift", "daily necessities", "accessories", "parts" and "consolidated". "Consolidated" is only acceptable at the master bill level. Carriers and other parties electing to file electronic cargo information data to CBP are required to provide a precise description of the cargo.

For general questions, or concerns about specific vague description cargo messages, please email ecommerce@cbp.dhs.gov.

Related message: CSMS #60011750

We appreciate your continued support of HMM.

Kind Regards,

HMM America