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**NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

GB/T 22153-2008

International freight forwarders' standard trading conditions

国际货运代理通用交易条件

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Table of Contents

1 Scope
2 Normative references
3 Terms and definitions
4 Application of the conditions
5 Scope of services and basis on which the forwarder acts
6 Obligations of the customer
7 Obligations and liability of the forwarder
8 Limits and exclusions of liability
9 Lien and security
10 Claims, notice and time bar
11 Insurance
About this edition
Classification and status
How a Chinese national standard is set out
About this English translation

1 Scope

This standard specifies the general trading conditions for international freight forwarding services: the scope of the services, the obligations of each party, the basis and limits of the forwarder's liability, the lien, and the time limits for claims.

The forwarder can be two different things

As agent it arranges carriage on the customer's behalf, and the carrier is liable for the goods.

As principal it is a contracting carrier that has undertaken the movement itself and answers for it.

And the customer usually assumes the wrong one

As agent the forwarder owes care in selecting and instructing. As principal it owes delivery.

A customer who has not read the contract generally believes it bought the second while paying for the first.

So the terms are settled in advance

In writing, before a claim arises rather than after it - which is the entire purpose of standard trading conditions.

What they cover

The services and the basis on which the forwarder acts; the customer's duty to declare the goods accurately, since a misdeclaration of dangerous or high-value cargo shifts a risk that was never priced.

Then the liability limits and exclusions, the lien over goods and documents for unpaid charges, the notice period and time bar for claims, and insurance, which is arranged only on instruction.

About this edition

GB/T 22153-2008 is the current edition. It was issued on 2 July 2008 and has been in force since 1 December 2008.

The interval between issue and effect is the transition period. It exists so that producers, laboratories and buyers can requalify products, revise procedures and use up documentation before the new text becomes the one that applies. The date on this page is the official one from the record of the Standardization Administration.

Classification and status

GB/T 22153-2008 is classified under ICS 03.100.01. ICS is the International Classification for Standards, the same scheme used by ISO and by the national bodies of most countries, which is what allows a Chinese standard to be placed beside its foreign counterparts on subject rather than on number.

Its Chinese Standard Classification code is CCS A 01. CCS is the domestic scheme, a letter for the sector and two digits for the subject within it, and it is the code by which the standard is filed and searched in China.

The GB/T prefix marks a recommended national standard. It is not, in itself, law: it becomes binding when a contract names it, when a regulation or a mandatory standard refers to it, or when a producer declares conformity with it. In practice that covers most of the cases in which it will be read - a purchase specification, an inspection agreement or a certification scheme.

How a Chinese national standard is set out

Chinese national standards are drafted to the rules of GB/T 1.1, which fixes the order in

which a standard is set out. The document opens with a foreword recording the issuing bodies, the relationship to any previous edition and the technical committee responsible for it. Clause 1 is the scope. Clause 2 lists the normative references - the other standards that have to be applied together with this one, and without which its requirements cannot be met. Clause 3 gives the terms and definitions. The technical clauses follow: the requirements themselves, the test or measurement methods by which conformity is established, the inspection rules that say how a lot is sampled and judged, and, for a product standard, the provisions on marking, packaging, transport and storage. Annexes, normative or informative, come last.

GB/T 22153-2008 runs to 15 pages in the English translation. What is delivered is the complete document in that order: every clause, every table, every figure and every annex of the Chinese original, with the same numbering, so that a reference to a clause number in a contract or a test report points to the same place in both languages.

About this English translation

The English edition of GB/T 22153-2008 is a full translation of the official Chinese text, not a summary, an abstract or a machine rendering left unchecked. Clause and subclause numbers, table and figure numbers and annex letters are those of the original, because they are what a specification, a purchase order or a test report cites.

Technical terms are translated against the vocabulary standards of the same field, so that a term used in GB/T 22153-2008 reads the same way as in the other Chinese standards it is used beside. Where a term has an established English form in an ISO or IEC document on the same subject, that form is used; where China's term has no foreign counterpart, it is translated literally and the Chinese is kept alongside it rather than replaced by an approximation.

Quantities, units and symbols are carried over unchanged. Chinese standards use SI, so a value in the translation is the value in the original document, not a conversion, and a limit read from the English text is the limit that will be applied by a Chinese inspection body reading the Chinese one.

This page is compiled from the official publication record: the standard number and both titles, the issuing bodies, the dates of issue and effect, the ICS and CCS classification. The requirements, limits, tables and test conditions are in the document itself.