

Decision No.

60228

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
Pacific Southcoast Freight Bureau
for Authority to Publish a Tariff Rule
eliminating stopping-in-transit
privilege for plasterboard and related
commodities when loaded on flatcars.

Application No. 42174

OPINION AND ORDER

By this application, filed April 20, 1960, Pacific Southcoast Freight Bureau seeks authority to publish a tariff rule which will eliminate the stopping-in-transit privilege for the purpose of partial unloading on plasterboard when loaded on flatcar equipment. The elimination would result in an increase in rates on less-carload shipments of plasterboard which otherwise would move as a part of a carload stop-in-transit shipment on flatcar equipment.

The application states that a common method of shipping plasterboard in California today employs open flat cars, generally equipped with special bulkheaded ends, whereby the plasterboard is secured in place on the car by steel strapping and weather protected by plastic or other impervious sheeting. It further states that the rail carriers' experience has been that loss and damage is high for stop-in-transit shipments on such open cars, and also that odd lengths of loose, cut steel strapping left on the car or wedged under the remaining load after the stop present a serious hazard to rail carrier employees. In short, according to the application, permitting partial unloading and further transportation of plasterboard shipments carried on open flat cars presents safety hazards, causes excessive loss and damage, and is

undesirable to carriers and shippers alike.

The application shows that this proposal was publicized in accordance with the procedure of Pacific Southcoast Freight Bureau and that it received the support of California's principal plasterboard shippers. Thus supported, the Freight Traffic Committee of Pacific Southcoast Freight Bureau, at its regular meeting on February 12, 1960, approved this proposal with publication to be made simultaneously both intrastate and interstate.

In the circumstances, it appears, and the Commission finds, that the proposed elimination of plasterboard from the stop-in-transit provisions as proposed herein is justified. A public hearing is not necessary. The application will be granted. It is noted that reference is made in the application to "UFC No. 5" and "UFC." Inasmuch as the Uniform Freight Classification is not officially on file with this Commission, the following order will provide for reference to the comparable items and rule of Western Classification No. 77.

Therefore, good cause appearing,

IT IS ORDERED:

(1) That Pacific Southcoast Freight Bureau is hereby authorized to publish a tariff rule which will eliminate the stop-in-transit privilege for the purpose of partial unloading for plasterboard when loaded on flatcar equipment by the addition of paragraph (h) to Item No. 45 of Pacific Southcoast Freight Bureau Tariff No. 194-S, to read:

"(h) Plasterboard as described in Items Nos. 95010 and 95020, Western Classification No. 77, when loaded on flatcars (see Exception 3).

"Exception 3. The provisions of paragraph (h) will not apply when shipments are loaded at

origin in or on two or more cars in accordance with Rule 24 of Western Classification No. 77, or other follow-lot rules, provided only one car is stopped in transit and such car is completely unloaded at stop point."

(2) That the authority herein granted shall expire unless exercised within ninety days after the effective date of this order.

This order shall become effective twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 6th day of June, 1960.

Everett C. [Signature]
President
[Signature]
Theodore [Signature]

Commissioners