

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 78860

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of ASSOCIATED FREIGHT LINES, a)
corporation, for exemption from)
Rule 9(a) of General Order No.)
84-F.)

Application No. 52589
(Filed April 30, 1971)

OPINION AND ORDER

Associated Freight Lines, a corporation, operates as a highway common carrier and highway permit carrier for the transportation of property between various points in California. By this application, it seeks relief from the requirements of General Order No. 84-F pertaining to the establishment and maintenance of a separate bank account for the deposit of certain monies collected on C.O.D. shipments.¹

Applicant states that it has recently installed a computer system in an effort to lower costs relating to the assembly and documentation of various facets of its operation including a determination as to freight charges and a collection and disbursement of funds relating to its overall operation. Applicant declares that, with the installation

¹. These requirements are set forth in detail in paragraph 9(a) of General Order No. 84-F.

of the computer system, all collection and disbursement of funds are handled through one bank account, including receipts and disbursements of C.O.D. funds. Applicant alleges that technical compliance with the aforementioned requirements of General Order No. 84-F would require the establishment of a separate bank account and separate computer system for collection and disbursement of C.O.D. funds and would greatly increase its costs.

Applicant contends that presently all checks or drafts collected on C.O.D. shipments and made payable to the shipper or consignor are sent directly to the shipper or consignor upon receipt thereof and that all checks made payable to it and all cash received on such C.O.D. shipments are deposited in its one bank account. Applicant avers that a C.O.D. listing is prepared daily, a weekly computation of all fees collected on C.O.D. shipments is made on Thursday and checks covering these fees are disbursed on Friday of each week. Applicant states that a separate accounting is still maintained for C.O.D. funds and the above procedure for handling C.O.D. shipments enables it to make payment of all C.O.D. fees well within the time requirements of the Commission rules. Applicant asserts that compelling it to maintain a separate bank account for C.O.D. funds under the circumstances outlined herein would not afford any greater protection to the public but would virtually eliminate the economy it hopes to achieve by reason of the installation of the computer system.

The application was listed on the Commission's Daily Calendar of May 3, 1971. No objection to the granting of the application has been received.


Commission staff analysis discloses that the public would not be adversely affected by the applicant's proposal but would benefit from the carrier's use of the computer system in expediting the remittance of C.O.D. fees to the parties involved. The staff recommends that the application be granted by ex parte order.


In the circumstances, it appears, and the Commission finds, that the sought relief is justified. A public hearing is not necessary. The Commission concludes that the application should be granted.

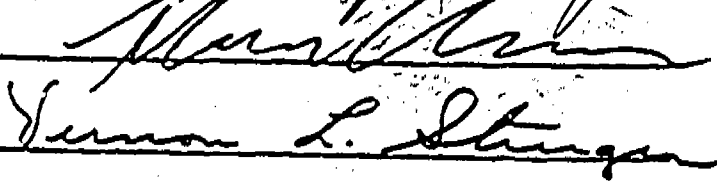
IT IS ORDERED that Associated Freight Lines, a corporation, is hereby relieved from the requirements of paragraph 9(a) of General Order No. 84-F to the extent specifically proposed in the application.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 29th day of June, 1971.



Chairman




Commissioners

-3- Commissioner D. W. Holmes, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.