

Examples of Unacceptable vs Acceptable Cargo Descriptions

A precise cargo description is a description of an item that is clear and concise. The description should be in plain language and detailed enough to allow U.S. Customs and Border Protection to identify the size, shape and characteristics of the commodity. Only the cargo description should be included in this field of the transmission. Superfluous information, not relevant to the commodity description e.g., personally identifiable information (PII), type of packaging, carrier disclaimers, etc., should not be transmitted in the commodity description field.

The following list, provided by CBP, is a guide to acceptable and unacceptable descriptions. This list is not exhaustive and will continue to expand as unacceptable descriptions are identified and acceptable descriptions are further refined. Descriptions in the Acceptable column should be viewed only as examples of the items they actually describe and **not** as a list of specifically acceptable or restrictive terms.

<u>Unacceptable</u>	<u>Acceptable</u>
"Brand" or "Trade Mark" names by themselves i.e., "Bubbles Brand"	"Bubbles Brand" Laundry Detergent
“Brand” or “Trade Mark” names by themselves	Laundry Detergent
Animals	Horse
Animals	Poultry
Animals	Bovine
Apparel/Clothing/Garments	Shoes, Footwear
Wearing Apparel, Ladies' Apparel, Men's Apparel	Women's Dresses
Wearing Apparel, Ladies' Apparel, Men's Apparel	Men's Shirts
Wearing Apparel, Ladies' Apparel, Men's Apparel	Boy's Jackets
Appliances	Refrigerator
Appliances	Stove
Appliances	Microwave Oven
Appliances	Coffee Machines
Accessories	Hair Elastics
Accessories	Sunglasses
Accessories	Socks
Auto Parts	Air Filters
Auto Parts	Automobile Brakes
Auto Parts	Automotive Windshield
Bill of Lading, Sea Waybill, Air Manifest or a reference to another bill of lading number	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Caps	Baseball Caps
Caps	Blasting Caps
Caps	Bottle Caps
Caps	Hub Caps
Chemicals, hazardous	Actual Chemical Name (not brand name):
Chemicals, hazardous	U.N. HAZMAT Code Identifier
Chemicals, non-hazardous	Aluminum Potassium Sulfate

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<u>Unacceptable</u>	<u>Acceptable</u>
Chemicals, non-hazardous	Methyl Alcohol
Chemicals, non-hazardous	U.N. HAZMAT Code Identifier
Cleaning Products	Detergents
Cleaning Products	Mops
Cleaning Products	Window Cleaner
Company Business	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Consolidated (on house or simple bills)	Consolidated (only on master bills, where there will be several house bills of varying descriptions)
Consumer Goods	A clear and concise description of the item is required
Crafts/Craft Supplies	Pipe Cleaners
Daily Necessities	A clear and concise description of the item is required (e.g. Plastic Comb, Cosmetic Mirror, Deodorant, Diapers)
Necessities	A clear and concise description of the item is required (e.g. Shampoo, Hand Cream, Toilet Paper)
Handicrafts	Construction paper, cotton balls, pipe cleaners, pompoms, decorative objects made by hand
Electronic Goods	Computers, Monitors, Televisions, Mobile Telephones, DVD players, Electronic Toys, Video Game Consoles, Electronic Dolls
Electronics	Computers, Monitors, Televisions, Mobile Telephones, DVD players, Electronic Toys, Video Game Consoles, Electronic Dolls
Equipment	Oil Well Equipment, Hydro-Electric Turbine
Industrial Equipment	Poultry Equipment, Compact Farm Tractor
Film	Camera Film
Film	Polyethylene Film
Film	Polyester Film
Flooring	Wood Flooring
Flooring	Carpet
Flooring	Ceramic Tile
Flooring	Marble Flooring
Foodstuffs	Packaged Rice, Bulk Rice, Mangos, Baking Flour
Food	Pasta, Canned Tuna, Corn Tortillas
Meat	Fresh Beef, Frozen Chicken
Fish	Live Trout, Frozen Salmon, Canned Tuna
Produce/Assorted Produce/Mixed produce/Mixed Vegetables	Fresh Oranges, Frozen Broccoli, Canned Peaches
Pet food	Canned Dog Food, Dry Cat Food
Cases of Food	Juice, Olive Oil

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<u>Unacceptable</u>	<u>Acceptable</u>
Snacks	Soda, Crackers, Potato Chips
Gifts	Dolls, Basketball, Toy Car
Novelty Items	Remote Control Cars, Toy Phone
Frames	Picture Frames
Freight Prepaid	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Household Goods	Acceptable only when goods are Personal / Used Household Effects transported by a commercial carrier (Goods accounted under a Personal Effects Accounting Document)
Personal Effects	Acceptable only when goods are Personal / Used Household Effects transported by a commercial carrier (Goods accounted under a Personal Effects Accounting Document)
Indecipherable descriptions ex. "RED SMOOTH MODULAR", "CDRE", "D6T PARTS", "RIPE", "Z", "2"	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Iron	Iron Pipes
Iron	Iron Plates
Leather Articles	Saddles
Leather Articles	Leather Handbags
Leather Articles	Leather Jackets
Leather Articles	Shoes
Machines	Sewing Machines
Machines	Printing Machines
Machine Parts	Oil Pumps
Machine Parts	Silicone Seals
Machine Parts	Car Engines
Medical Supplies	Medical Gloves, N95 Masks, Rolls of Gauze
Biologicals	Blood, plasma, tissue, semen
Medical Device	Dialysis Machine
Laboratory Goods	Syringes
Laboratory Goods	Glass vials for laboratory use
Medication/Pharmaceuticals	Insulin, Allergy Medication, with the common name or chemical name
Metal	Ingots of metal (precious or otherwise)
Metal	Round bars of steel or other metal
Metal	Deformed bars/rebars (of metal)
Metal	Plates (of metal)
Metal	Billets (of metal)

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Metal	Slabs (of metal)
Metal	Pipes (of metal)
Metal	Beams (of metal)
Metal	Tubes/Tubing (of metal)
Metal	Angles, shapes and sections (of metal)
Metal	Sheets (of metal)
Metal	Expanded metal
Metal	Flat bars (of metal)
Metal	Strand wire (of metal)
Oil	Mineral Oil
Oil	Motor Oil
Oil	Olive Oil
Online Retailer	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Online Retailer Shipment	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Ore	Iron Ore
Ore	Copper Ore
Packaging	Corrugated Cardboard Boxes
Boxes	Mailing Envelopes
Cartons	Plastic Bubble Wrap
Palletized Shipment	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Paper	Paper Rolls
Paper	Wrapping Paper
Paper	Paper Pulp
Paper	Paper Towel
Paper	Printing Paper
Pipes	Plastic Pipes
Pipes	PVC Pipes
Pipes	Steel Pipes
Plants/Flowers	Tulips, Daisies, Roses
Cuttings	Cedar Saplings
Cuttings	Tomato Plants
Plastic Goods	Plastic Kitchenware
Industrial Plastics	Plastic Toys
Industrial Plastics	Plastic Sheets
Industrial Plastics	Plastic Tubes
Polyurethane	Polyurethane Threads

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<u>Unacceptable</u>	<u>Acceptable</u>
Polyurethane	Polyurethane Medical Gloves
Powder	Flea Powder
Powder	Baby Powder
Powder	Corn Starch
Promotional Items	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Pump	Oil Pump
Pump	Water Pump
Pump	Bicycle Pump
Rubber Articles	Rubber Hoses
Rubber Articles	Tires
Rubber Articles	Rubber Toys
Rubber Articles	Rubber Conveyor Belts
Rods	Welding Rods
Rods	Rebar
Rods	Aluminum Rods
Rods	Reactor Rods
Sample	Shampoo Sample
Sample	Conditioner Sample
Sample	Makeup Sample
Scrap	Plastic Scrap
Scrap	Aluminum Scrap
Scrap	Iron Scrap
Serial Number only ("SN HAFR997MJ02041010")	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Shingles	Asphalt Shingles
Shingles	Steel Shingles
Shingles	Wood Shingles
Spare Parts	Cellphone Replacement Screen
Spare Parts	New Automobile Breaks
Sporting Goods	Hockey Sticks
Sporting Goods	Soccer Balls
Sporting Goods	Goal Nets
STC (Said to Contain)	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
General Cargo	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
FAK (Freight of All Kinds)	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples

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<u>Unacceptable</u>	<u>Acceptable</u>
"No Description"	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
'Misc/Miscellaneous'	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Various	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
General	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Unknown	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
UNK	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
XX	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
NOI (Not Otherwise Indicated)	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
NES (Note Elsewhere Specified)	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Steel	Steel Plates
Steel	Steel Coils
Supplements	Vitamins
Supplements	Protein Powder
Supplies	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Stuff	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Taxable Groceries	Ice Cream
Taxable Groceries	Potato Chips
Textiles	Carpets/Rugs
Textiles	Silk
Textiles	Finished Fabric Rolls
Thing	A clear and concise description of the item is required – see other acceptable descriptions for examples
Tiles	Ceramic Tiles
Tiles	Marble Tiles
Toiletries/Bathroom Products	Towels
Toiletries/Bathroom Products	Toothbrushes
Toiletries/Bathroom Products	Shampoo
Tools	Screwdrivers, Wrenches, Hammers
Tools	Cordless Drills, Circular Saws, Wired Impact Drivers, Pneumatic Ratchets
Tools	Industrial Lathe, Band Saw, Reciprocating Saw

Examples of Unacceptable vs Acceptable Cargo Descriptions

<u>Unacceptable</u>	<u>Acceptable</u>
Toys/Games	Wooden Children's Toys
Toys/Games	Plastic Children's Toys
Toys/Games	Board Games
Toys/Games	Console Games
Vehicles	Cars, Trucks, Buses, Recreational Vehicle
Vehicles	Tractors, Combines
Vehicles	Bicycles
Vehicles	Boats
Wires	Steel Wire
Wires	Copper Wire
Wires	Auto Harness
Wires	Coiled Wire (Industrial)
Wood	Hemlock logs with bark
Wood	Empty Wood Pallets
Wood	Cut Lumber

For regulatory or policy questions, please contact OFO-ManifestBranch@cbp.dhs.gov.

For any questions about Do Not Load or similar messages, please NTCCDFIELDSUPPORT@cbp.dhs.gov.

For any questions about inspection holds, please contact the local port who placed the hold at [Locate a Port of Entry](#).

For questions or issues about e-commerce filings please contact ecommerce@cbp.dhs.gov.