

1. DEFINITION.

a) "Carriage" means the whole of the operations and services undertaken or performed by or on behalf of the Carrier with respect to the Goods. b) "Carrier" means the Company named on the face side hereof and on whose behalf this Bill of Lading was issued whether acting as carrier or bailee. c) "Charges" means freight, deadweight, demurrage and all expenses and money obligations incurred and payable by the Carrier. d) "Container" means any container, receptacle, van, trailer, flatbed, transportable tank, railroad car, vehicle, flat, flatrack, pallet, rack, platform, crane, sling-load or any other article of transport. e) "Goods" means the cargo received from the shipper and described on the face side hereof and any Container not supplied by or on behalf of the Carrier. f) "Merchant" means the shipper, consignee, receiver, holder of this Bill of Lading, owner of the cargo or person entitled to the possession of the cargo and the servants and agents of any of these, all of whom shall be jointly and severally liable to the Carrier for the payment of all Charges, and for the performance of the obligations of any of them under this Bill of Lading. g) "On Board" or similar words endorsed on this Bill of Lading mean that in a Port to Port movement, the Goods have been loaded on board the Vessel are in the custody of the actual ocean carrier and in the event of intermodal transportation, if the originating carrier is an inland or coastal carrier, means that the Goods have been loaded on board rail cars or another mode of transport at the Place of receipt or are in the custody of a Participating Carrier and en route to the Port of destination named on the reverse side hereof. h) "Participating Carrier" means by water and/or air, port-to-port, any state of the Carriage, including inland carriers, whether acting as sub-carrier, connecting carrier, substitute carrier or bailee. i) "Person" means an individual, a partnership, a body corporate or any other entity of whatsoever nature. j) "Vessel" means the ocean vessel named on the face side hereof, and any substitute vessel, feedership, barge, or other means of conveyance by water used in whole or in part by the Carrier to fulfill this contract.

2. CARRIER'S TARIFFS.

The goods carried hereunder are subject to all the terms and conditions of the Carrier's applicable tariff(s) on file with a regulatory body whose rules govern all or a particular portion of the Carriage and said terms and conditions are hereby incorporated herein as part of the Terms and Conditions of this Bill of Lading. Copies of the relevant provisions of the applicable tariff(s) are obtainable from the Carrier or other concerned regulatory body concerned upon request. In the event of any conflict between the terms and conditions of such tariff(s) and the Terms and Conditions of this Bill of Lading, this Bill of Lading shall prevail.

3. WARRANTY/ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Merchant warrants that in agreeing to the Terms and Conditions hereof, it is, or is the agent and has authority of, the owner or person entitled to the possession of the Goods or any person who has a present or future interest in the Goods. The Merchant acknowledges that the Carrier is a non-vessel operating common carrier ("NVOCC") and that it neither owns nor charters vessels, as a result of which the Carrier or any sub-carrier, whether acting as sub-carrier, connecting carrier, substitute carrier or bailee, is not required to accomplish the Carriage contemplated by this Bill of Lading and does so as agent of the Merchant. The Merchant further acknowledges that by identifying the carrying Vessel on the face side hereof, it knows or can determine the name of the actual ocean carrier and the terms and conditions of the actual ocean carrier's bill of lading and applicable tariff(s) and agrees to be bound thereby.

4. RESPONSIBILITY.

a) Except where the Carriage covered by this Bill of Lading is to or from a port or locally where there is in force a compulsorily applicable ordinance or statute similar in nature to the International Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to the Bills of Lading, dated at Brussels, August 25, 1924, the provisions of which cannot be departed from, this Bill of Lading shall have effect as if the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act of the United States (COGSA), amended April 16, 1936, and nothing herein contained, unless otherwise stated, shall be deemed a surrender by the Carrier of any of its rights, immunities, exemptions, limitations or exonerations or an increase of any of its responsibilities or liabilities under COGSA or, as the case may be, such ordinances or statutes. The provisions of its responsibilities or liabilities under COGSA or such ordinances or statutes (except as otherwise specifically provided herein) shall govern before loading on and after discharge from the vessel and throughout the entire time the Goods or Containers or other packages are in the care, custody and/or control of the Carrier, its agents, servants, Participating Carriers or Independent Contractors (inclusive of all subcontractors), whether engaged by or acting for the Carrier or any other person, during the entire time the Carrier is responsible for the Goods. b) The Carrier shall not be liable in any capacity whatsoever for any delay, non-delivery, misdelivery or other loss or damage to or in connection with the Goods or Containers or other packages or time contemplated under subdivision a) of this Clause. c) The Carrier shall, irrespective of which law is applicable under subdivision a) of this Clause, be entitled to the benefit of the provisions of Sections 4281 to 4287, inclusive of the Revised Statutes of the United States and amendments thereto. d) The rights, defenses, exemptions, limitations and exonerations from liability and immunities of whatsoever nature provided for in this Bill of Lading shall apply in any action or proceeding against the Carrier, its agents and servants and/or any Participating Carrier or Independent Contractor.

5. THROUGH TRANSPORTATION.

When either the Place of Receipt or Place of Delivery set forth herein is an inland port or place other than the Port of Loading (Through Transportation basis), the Carrier will be liable for loss of or damage to the Goods or Containers or other packages or any part of them, notwithstanding anything in this Bill of Lading, but always subject to Clause 4 hereof. The Carrier shall be liable for loss or damage of whatsoever nature and whatsoever arising to the following extent, but no further: a) Upon proof that the loss or damage arose during a part of the carriage herein made subject to COGSA or other legislation, as set forth in Clause 4 a) hereof, said legislation shall apply; or b) Upon proof that the loss or damage not falling within a) above, but concerning which no law of any country, state or subdivision thereof contains provisions that are compulsorily applicable and would have applied if the Merchant had made a separate and direct contract with the Carrier, a Participating Carrier or Independent Contractor, as referred to in Clause 4 a), relative to a particular stage of transport or other handling wherein the loss or damage occurred and received as evidence thereof a particular receipt or other document, then the liability of the Carrier, Participating Carrier and Independent Contractor shall be subject to the provisions of such law. c) If it should be determined that the Carrier bears any responsibility for loss or damage occurring during the care, custody and/or control of any Participating Carrier or Independent Contractor, and be subject to law compulsorily applicable to their bills of lading, receipts, tariffs and/or law applicable thereto, then the Carrier shall be entitled to all rights, defenses, immunities, exemptions, limitations of and exonerations from liability of whatsoever nature accorded under such bill of lading, receipt, tariff and/or applicable law, provided however, that nothing contained herein shall be deemed a surrender by the Carrier of any of its rights, immunities or exonerations or an increase of any of its responsibilities or liabilities under this Bill of Lading, the Carrier's applicable tariff or laws applicable or relating to such Carriage. d) Except as herein above provided, the Carrier shall have no liability for damage to the Goods.

6. SUBCONTRACTING - BENEFICIARIES.

a) The Carrier shall be entitled to subcontract on any terms the whole or any part of the Carriage, loading, unloading, storing, warehousing, handling and any and all duties whatsoever undertaken by it in relation to the Goods or Containers or other packages or any other goods. b) It is understood and agreed that if it should be adjudged that any person or entity other than or in addition to the Carrier is under any responsibility with respect to the Goods or any other goods, regardless of the port or place where any loss or damage shall occur and regardless of whether the Goods covered hereby or any other goods are being handled or are damaged directly or indirectly during any handling, and even if the Goods or other goods are transported on free, stowed and/or free out terms, all exemptions, limitations of and exonerations from liability provided by law or by the Terms and Conditions hereof shall be available to all agents, servants, employees, representatives, all Participating (including inland) Carriers and all stevedores, terminal operators, warehousemen, crane operators, watchmen, carpenters, sho cleaners, surveyors and all independent contractors of whatsoever nature. c) In respect of the foregoing exemptions, limitations of and exonerations from liability, the Carrier is acting as agent and trustee for and on behalf of all persons described above, all of whom shall to this extent be deemed to be a party to the contract evidenced by this Bill of Lading, regardless of whom acting or by whom retained and paid, it being always understood that said beneficiaries are not entitled in any greater or further exemptions, limitations of and exonerations from liability than the Carrier has under this Bill of Lading in any given jurisdiction. d) The Carrier undertakes to procure such services as necessary and shall have the right at its sole discretion to select any mode of land, sea or air transport and to arrange participation by other carriers to accomplish the total or any part of the carriage from Port of Loading to Port of Discharge or from Place of Receipt to Place of Delivery, or any combination thereof, except as may be otherwise provided herein. e) The Merchant agrees that the Carrier shall be deemed to be the Carrier's bill of lading and any other bills of lading and receipts, tariffs and/or law applicable or relating to the Carriage or exonerations from liability therein contained even though the Carrier acts as agent of the Merchant in contracting with the actual ocean carrier for the Carriage of Goods. Notwithstanding, under no circumstances shall the Carrier be responsible for any damages to an extent greater than the actual ocean carrier or any beneficiaries of its bill of lading. f) No agent or servant of the Carrier or other person or class named in subdivision a) hereof shall have authority to waive or modify any of the terms and conditions of this Bill of Lading, including specifically authorized or ratified in writing by an officer or director of the Carrier having actual authority to bind the Carrier to such waiver or variation.

7. MERCHANT'S RESPONSIBILITY - DESCRIPTION OF GOODS

a) The description and particulars of the Goods set out on the face hereof or any description particular to their representation appearing on the Goods or documents relating thereto are furnished by the Merchant and the Merchant warrants to the Carrier that the description, particulars and any representation made including, but not limited to, weight, content, measure, quantity, quality, condition, marks, numbers and value are correct. b) The Merchant warrants it has complied with all applicable laws, regulations and requirements of Customs, port and other authorities and shall be liable for any charges, expenses and losses incurred by the Carrier or its agents, servants, employees or by reason of any illegal, incorrect or insufficient marking, numbering addressing or any other particulars relative to the Goods. c) The Merchant further warrants that the Goods are packed in a manner adequate to withstand the ordinary risks of Carriage having regard to their nature and in compliance with all laws, regulations and requirements which may be applicable. d) No Goods which are or may become dangerous, inflammable or otherwise liable to damage any other cargo or the vessel or to damage any other person or property shall be tendered to the Carrier for Carriage without the Carrier's prior express consent in writing and without the Container or other covering in which the Goods are to be transported and the Goods being distinctly marked on the outside so as to indicate the nature and character of any such articles and as to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and requirements. If any such articles are delivered to the Carrier without such written consent and marking in the opinion of the Carrier the articles are or are liable to become of a dangerous, inflammable or damaging nature, the same may at any time be destroyed, disposed of, abandoned or rendered harmless without compensation to the Merchant and without prejudice to the Carrier's right to charges. e) The Merchant shall be liable for all loss or damage of any kind whatsoever, including but not limited to contamination, soiling, detention and demurrage before, during and after the Carriage of property (including but not limited to Containers of the Carrier or any person or vessel (other than the Merchant) caused by the Merchant or any person acting on its behalf or for which the Merchant is otherwise responsible. f) The Merchant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Carrier against any loss, damage, claim liability or expense whatsoever arising from any breach of the provisions of this Clause 8 or from any cause in connection with the Goods for which the Carrier is not responsible.

8. CONTAINERS.

a) Goods may be stuffed by the Carrier in or on Containers and Goods may be stuffed with other Goods. b) The Terms and Conditions of this Bill of Lading shall govern the responsibility of the Carrier in connection with or arising out of the supply of a Container to the Merchant, whether supplied before or after the Goods are received by the Carrier or delivered to the Merchant. c) If a Container has been stuffed by or on behalf of the Merchant, the Carrier shall be liable for any loss or damage to the Goods caused by the unsuitability or defective condition of the Container has been stuffed if caused by the unsuitability of the Goods for Carriage in Containers caused by the unsuitability or defective condition of the Container provided that the subdivision c) shall only apply if the unsuitability or defective condition arose: a) without any want of due diligence on the part of the carrier or b) would have been apparent upon reasonable inspection by the Merchant at or prior to the time when the Container was stowed and/or sealed; and the Carrier is not liable for any loss or damage to the Goods from the commencement of the Carriage except where the carrier has agreed to seal the Container. 2. The Merchant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Carrier against any loss, damage, claim liability or expense whatsoever arising from one or more of the matters covered by c) 1 above except for 1. 3. Where the Carrier is instructed to provide a Container, in the absence of a written request to the contrary, the Carrier is only obliged to provide a dry container (i.e. without temperature or atmosphere control) and is not under an obligation to provide a Container of any other type or quality.

9. CONTAINERIZED CARGO.

Goods may be stowed by the Carrier in Containers and Containers, whether stowed by the Carrier or received fully stowed, may be carried on or under deck without notice. The Merchant expressly agrees that the cargo stowed in a Container and carried on deck is considered for all legal purposes to be cargo stowed under deck. Goods stowed in Containers on deck shall be subject to the legislation referred to in Clause 4 hereof and will continue in General Average and receive compensation in General Average, as the case may be.

10. CONTAINERS WITH HEATING OR REEFER APPARATUS.

Containers with temperature or atmosphere control apparatus for heating, refrigeration or otherwise will not be furnished unless contracted for expressly in writing at time of booking and, when furnished, may entail increased Charges. In the absence of an express request, it shall be conclusively presumed that the use of a dry container is appropriate for the Goods. Merchant must provide Carrier with desired temperature range in writing at time of booking and on the weather side of the Bill of Lading. In the event of a temperature range, the Carrier is to exercise due diligence to maintain the temperature within a reasonable range while the Containers are in its care, custody and/or control or that of any Participating carrier or independent contractor. The Carrier does not accept any responsibility for the functioning of temperature or atmosphere-controlled Containers not owned or leased by Carrier or for latent defects not discoverable by the exercise of due diligence.

Where the Container is stuffed or partially stuffed by or on behalf of the Merchant, the Merchant warrants that it has properly pre-coded the Container, that the Goods have been properly stuffed and secured within the Container and that the temperature controls have been properly set prior to delivery of the Container to the Carrier, its agents, servants, or any Participating Carrier or Independent Contractor. The Merchant accepts responsibility for all damage or loss of whatsoever nature resulting from a breach of any of these warranties, including but not limited to other cargo consolidated in the Container with the Merchant's Goods or to any other cargo, property or person damaged or injured as a result thereof, and the Merchant agrees to defend, indemnify and hold the Carrier, its agents, servants, Participating Carriers or Independent Contractors harmless from and against all claims, suits, proceedings and other consequences thereof regardless of their nature and merit.

11. OPTION OF INSPECTION.

The Carrier and any Participating Carrier shall be entitled, but under no obligation, to open any Container at any time and to inspect the contents. If it thereupon appears that the contents or any part thereof cannot safely or properly be carried or carried further, either at all or without incurring any additional expense, the Carrier and Participating Carrier may abandon the transportation thereof and/or take any measures and/or incur any reasonable additional expenses to continue the Carriage or to store the Goods, which storage shall be deemed to constitute due delivery under this Bill of Lading. The Merchant shall indemnify the Carrier against any reasonable additional Charges to be incurred.

12. DECK CARGO.

Deck cargo (except that carried in Containers on deck) and live animals are received and carried solely at Merchant's risk (including accident or mortality of animals), and the Carrier will not in any event be liable for any loss or damage for or from which he is exempt, immune or exonerated by applicable law, or from any other cause whatsoever not due to the fault of the Carrier, any warranty of seaworthiness in the Merchant's favor, or the burden of proving liability being in all respects upon the Merchant. Except as may be otherwise provided, such shipments shall be deemed Goods and shall be subject to all Terms and Conditions of this Bill of Lading.

13. METHODS AND ROUTES OF TRANSPORTATION - LIBERTIES.

With respect to the Goods or Containers or other packages, the Carrier may at any time and without notice to the Merchant: a) use any means of transport (water, land and/or air) or storage whatsoever; b) forward, tranship or retain on board or carry on another vessel or conveyance or by any other means of transport other than that named on the reverse side hereof; c) carry Goods on or under deck at its option; d) proceed by any route in its sole and absolute discretion and whether the nearest, most direct, customary or advertised route in or out of geographical locations or to stay at any place whatsoever once or more often and in any order or calling call at any port, whether scheduled or not; e) store, warmed or deviated, at any place whatsoever, ashore or afloat, in the open or covered; g) proceed with or without pilots; h) carry livestock, contraband, explosives, munitions, warlike stores, dangerous or hazardous goods or goods of any and all kinds; i) drydock or stop at any unscheduled or unadvertised port for bunkers, repairs or for any purpose whatsoever; j) discharge and require the Merchant to take delivery, warmed or deviated; k) comply with any orders, directions or recommendations given by any government or authority or having under the terms of the insurance on the vessel or other conveyance employed by the Carrier the right to give such orders, directions or recommendations; l) take any other steps or precautions as may appear reasonable to the Carrier under the circumstances. The liberties set out in subdivisions a) through l) may be invoked for any purpose whatsoever even if not connected with the Carriage covered by this Bill of Lading, any action taken or omitted to be taken, and any delay arising therefrom, shall be deemed to be within the contract of Carriage and not an unreasonable deviation. In no circumstance whatsoever shall the Carriage be liable for direct, indirect, or consequential loss or damage caused by delay.

14. MATTERS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE.

a) If at any time the Carriage is or is likely to be affected by a hindrance, risk, delay, difficulty or disadvantage of any kind (including the condition of the Goods), whenever and however arising (whether or not the Carriage has commenced), the Carrier may without notice to the Merchant abandon the Carriage of the Goods and where reasonable possible place the Goods or any part of them at the Merchant's disposal at any place which the Carrier may deem to be safe and convenient whereupon the responsibility of the Carrier in respect of such Goods shall cease, and the Merchant shall be deemed to have accepted the Carriage under above, continuing the Carriage, take any and all steps set forth in Clause 13 hereof. b) The liability of the Carrier with respect to the Goods shall cease on the delivery or other disposition of the Goods in accordance with the orders or recommendations given by any government or authority or any person acting or purporting to act as or on behalf of such government or authority. c) In any event, the carrier shall be entitled to full Charges on Goods received for carriage and the Merchant shall pay any additional costs resulting from the above mentioned circumstances.

15. DELIVERY.

If delivery of the Goods or Containers or other packages or any part thereof is not taken by the Merchant when and where and at such time and place as the Carrier is entitled to have the Merchant take delivery, they shall be considered to have been delivered to the Merchant. The Carrier may, at its option, subject to its lien and without notice, elect to have the same remain where they are or sent to a warehouse or other place, always at the risk and expense of the Merchant and Goods. If the Goods are stowed within a Container owned or leased by the Carrier, the Carrier shall be entitled to deviate the contents of any such Container, whereupon the Goods shall be considered to have been delivered to the Merchant and the Carrier may at its option, subject to its lien and without notice, elect to have same remain where they are or sent to a warehouse or other place, always at the risk and expense of the Merchant and Goods.

16. CHARGES, INCLUDING FREIGHT.

The Charges payable hereunder have been calculated on the basis of particulars furnished by or on behalf of the Merchant. The Carrier shall, at any time, be entitled to inspect, reweigh, remeasure or revalue the contents and if any of the particulars furnished by the Merchant are found to be incorrect, the Charges shall be adjusted accordingly and the Merchant shall be responsible to pay the correct Charges and all expenses incurred by the Carrier in checking said particulars or any of them. Charges shall be deemed earned on acceptance of the Goods or Containers or other packages for shipment by the Carrier and shall be paid by the Merchant in full, without any offset, counter claim or deduction, and the Merchant shall be deemed to have accepted the Carriage and shall be non-refundable. The Merchant shall remain responsible for all charges, regardless whether the Bill of Lading states, in words or symbols, that it is "Prepaid," "to be Prepaid" or "Collect." In arranging for any services with respect to the Goods, the Carrier shall be considered the exclusive agent of the Merchant for all purposes, and any payment of charges to other than the carrier shall not, in any event, be considered payment to the carrier. The Merchant shall defend, indemnify and hold the Carrier, any Participating Carrier, Independent Contractor, their agents and servants, harmless from and against all liability, loss damage and expense which may be sustained or incurred relative to the above.

17. CARRIER'S LIEN.

The Carrier shall have a lien on the Goods, inclusive of any Container owned or leased by the Merchant, as well as on any Charges due any other person, and on all documents relating thereto, which lien shall survive delivery for all sums due under this contract or any other contract or undertaking to which the Merchant was party or otherwise involved, including, but not limited to, General Average contributions, salvage and the cost of recovering such sums, inclusive of attorney fees. Such lien may be enforced by the Carrier by public or private sale at the expense of and without notice to the Merchant. The Merchant agrees to defend, indemnify and hold the Carrier, any Participating Carrier, Independent Contractor, their agents and servants, harmless from and against all liability, loss damage or expense which may be sustained or incurred by the Carrier relative to the above and the Merchant agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of any court, tribunal or other body before whom the Carrier may be brought, whether said proceeding is of a civil or criminal nature.

18. RUST.

It is agreed that superficial rust, oxidation or any like condition due to moisture, is not a condition of damage but is inherent to the nature of the Goods. Acknowledgement of receipt of the Goods in apparent good order and condition is not a representation that such conditions of rust, oxidation or the like did not exist on receipt.

19. BOTH-TO-BLAME COLLISION.

If the Vessel on which the Goods are carried (the carrying Vessel) comes into collision with any other vessel or object (the non-carrying vessel or object) as a result of the negligence of the non-carrying vessel or object or the owner of, charterer of, or person responsible for the non-carrying vessel or object, the Merchant undertakes to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Carrier against all claims by or liability to (and any expense incurred by) the non-carrying vessel or object for any loss or damage, including but not limited to, the Merchant paid or payable to the Merchant by the non-carrying vessel or object or the owner of, charterer of or person responsible for the non-carrying vessel or object and set off, recovered or recovered by such vessel, object or person against the Carrier, the carrying vessel or her owners or charterers. This provision is to remain in effect in other jurisdictions, even if unenforceable in the courts of the United States.

20. GENERAL AVERAGE.

a) The Carrier may declare General Average which shall be adjusted according to the York/Antwerp Rules of 1994 and all subsequent amendments from time to time made, at any place at the option of the Carrier and the Amended Jason Clause as approved by BIMCO to be considered as in force with respect to such packages. In the event this provision should be held invalid during that period and suit is brought notwithstanding a) above, the Merchant shall claim (and any expense arising therefrom) of a General Average nature which may be made against the Carrier and/or any participating carrier and shall provide such security as may be required by the Carrier in this connection. c) Neither the Carrier nor any Participating Carrier shall be under any obligation to take any steps whatsoever to collect security from General Average contributions due to the Merchant.

21. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.

Except as otherwise provided in this Clause or elsewhere in this Bill of Lading, in case of any loss or damage to or in connection with cargo exceeding in actual value the equivalent of \$500 lawful money of the United States, per package, or in case of cargo not shipped in packages, per shipping unit, the value of the cargo shall be deemed to be \$500 per package or per shipping unit. The Carrier's liability, if any, shall be determined on the basis of a value of \$500 per package or per shipping unit shall have been declared by the Merchant before shipment and inserted in this Bill of Lading, and extra freight paid if required. In such case, if the actual value of the cargo per package or per shipping unit shall exceed such declared value, the value shall nevertheless be deemed to be declared value and the Carrier's liability, if any, shall not be the declared value. The words "shipping unit" shall mean each physical unit (e.g. container, bundle, pallet, etc.) or piece of cargo not shipped in a package, including articles or things of any description whatsoever, except cargo shipped in bulk and irrespective of the weight or measurement unit employed in calculating freight and related charges. As to cargo shipped in bulk, the limitation applicable thereto shall be the limitation provided in Section 1304(5) of COGSA, or such other legislation, convention or law as may be applicable to the vessel or cargo, and in the event that anything herein be construed as a waiver or limitation as to cargo shipped in bulk. Where a Container is not stuffed by or on behalf of the Carrier or the parties characterizing the Container as a package or a lump sum is assessed, in any of these events, each individual such Container, including in each instance its contents, shall be deemed a single package and Carrier's liability limited to \$500 with respect to each such package, except as otherwise provided in this Clause or elsewhere in this Bill of Lading including in this connection. This provision should be held invalid during that period in which compulsory legislation shall apply of its own force and effect, such as during the tackle-to-tackle period, it shall nevertheless apply during all non-compulsory periods such as, but not limited to, all periods prior to loading and subsequent to discharge from the Vessel for which the Carrier remains responsible. Where compulsorily applicable legislation provides a limitation less than \$500 per package or shipping unit, such lesser limitation shall apply and nothing herein contained shall be construed as a waiver of a limitation less than \$500. Further, where a lesser limitation is applicable during handling by a participating Carrier or Independent Contractor, the Merchant's loss or damage occurs during its or their period of care, custody, control and/or responsibility, the Carrier shall be entitled to avail itself of such lesser limitation.

22. NOTICE OF CLAIM; TIME FOR SUIT.

As to any loss or damage presumed to have occurred during the Carrier's period of responsibility, the Carrier must be notified in writing of any such loss or damage or claim before or at the time of discharge/removal of the Goods by the Merchant or, if the loss or damage is not then apparent, within 3 consecutive days after discharge/delivery or the date when the Goods should have been discharged/delivered. If not so notified, the Merchant's claim shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of the amount of loss or damage, and the Merchant shall be deemed to have accepted the Carriage of such goods by the Carrier of such Goods. In any event, the Carrier shall be discharged from all liability of whatsoever nature unless suit is brought within 1 year after delivery of the Goods or the date when the Goods should have been delivered. Provided, however, that if any claim should arise during a part of the transport which is subject by applicable law and/or tariff and/or contract to a shorter period for notice of claim or commercial claims, such shorter period shall prevail unless the carrier has made its claim invalid during that period and suit is brought within such shorter period. "Suit shall not be deemed 'brought'" unless jurisdiction is obtained over the Carrier by service of process or by an agreement to appear. In the event this provision is held invalid during that period in which compulsory legislation shall apply of its own force and effect, such as during the tackle-to-tackle period, it shall nevertheless apply during all non-compulsory periods during which the Carrier remains responsible.

23. NON-WAIVER AND SEPARABILITY.

Nothing in this Bill of Lading shall operate to deprive the Carrier of any statutory protection or any defense, immunity, exemption, limitation or exonerations from liability contained in the laws of the United States or of any other country whose laws may be applicable. The Terms and Conditions of this Bill of Lading (including all of the terms and conditions of the carrier's applicable tariff or tariffs incorporated herein by virtue of Clause 2 above) shall be separable, and if any part or term hereof shall be held invalid, such holding shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other part or term hereof.