

ISSUE: Carrier Penalties for reporting incorrect carrier manifest quantities

Lately, CBP has been issuing penalties and warnings to Customs Brokers and Trucklines (carriers) for their reporting of incorrect or inaccurate manifest quantities. We tender this memo to you in hopes that you will assist your carriers or work with them by providing them with their proper manifest package “types” and “quantities”

Much of the following comments are information stated in CBP’s **ACE e-manifest guidelines manual**, and state that the proper manifesting requirements include:

The description of the goods, their lowest external packaging unit and quantity, as well as gross weight, are always required to be reported with a shipment record. Additional data may be required depending on the shipment release type declared. The description below pertains to a PAPS shipment release type.



Pallet is not an acceptable unit of measure. You must report the lowest external packaging unit. If there are 240 cases containing 2400 cans on 5 pallets, you will report 240 cases, not 5 pallets nor 2400 cans. Even if the goods are shrink-wrapped, you are required to report the actual number of cases. Note: Under “Quantity Unit of Measure,” skid is available in the drop down menu, but this does not refer to a pallet, it is used as a description of an Item that is mounted on a skid.

The numbers and quantities for the cargo laden aboard the truck as contained in the bill(s) of lading (this means the quantity of the lowest external packaging unit; numbers referencing only containers and pallets do not constitute acceptable information; for example, a container holding ten pallets with a total of 200 cartons should be described as 200 cartons).

The above snapshots embedded are instructions for the carrier to adhere to, however should you fail to assist them with a proper packaging type and quantity, your shipment can become the subject of a penalty and seizure – and nobody wants that.

We realize that these carrier regulations do not coincide with exporters and importers legal “invoicing requirements”, but we want you to know the hardship CBP (Customs) is placing on your carriers (and customs brokers) in hopes that you will work with your carrier and broker by providing them with your “lowest external packaging unit” type (cartons, loose pieces, boxes, etc.) and their added total quantity.

Another example is provided for your consideration. A shipment consists of 15 loose pieces of machinery, 1 crate of machinery parts, and 5 packages of miscellaneous machinery parts. Our suggested manifesting quantity we feel you should report to the carrier and the carrier should report to CBP is; $15 + 1 + 5 = 21$ packages.