

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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FOREIGN-OWNED CONTAINERS

Communication from the United States

The following communication has been received from the Government of the United States.

On 27 September the Federal Register carried a ruling by the Bureau of Customs for the relaxation of restrictions on foreign-owned containers moving in the internal United States to allow for use in transporting goods in domestic service so long as they move on a reasonably direct route back to an export loading point or to a point for return overseas.

The following is the text of the amendment to the customs' regulations:

"Section 10.41A lift vans, cargo vans, shipping tanks, skids, pallets, and similar instruments of international traffic.

"(F) Except as provided in paragraph (H) of this Section, no part of this Section precludes (1) the use of an instrument in picking up and delivering loads at intervening points in the United States while en route between the port of arrival and the point of destination of its imported cargo or (2) such use of the instrument while en route from such point of destination of imported cargo to a point where export cargo is to be loaded or to an exterior port of departure by a reasonably direct route to, or nearer to the place of such loading or departure, provided such point-to-point traffic is incidental to the efficient and economical utilization of the instrument in the course of its use in international traffic. Such use does not constitute a diversion to unpermitted point-to-point local traffic within the United States or a withdrawal of an instrument in the United States from its use as an instrument of international traffic under this Section."

The ruling is an effort to comply with a resolution adopted in 1968 by the working party on customs questions affecting transport of the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

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