



**European Commission guidelines for acceptable and non-acceptable plain language cargo descriptions  
Requirement of Dutch Customs**

**April 1, 2009**

In preparation of the implementation of the European advance cargo security requirements (Commission Regulation 1875/2006), the European Commission has developed guidelines for acceptable and nonacceptable cargo descriptions. Even though the mandatory lodgement of entry and exit summary declarations has been delayed until December 31, 2010, individual EU Member States may require the application of the cargo description guidelines in the near future, e.g. in arrival manifests or summary declarations for temporary storage. Effective July 1, 2009, Dutch Customs will commence with this requirement. Usage of nonacceptable cargo descriptions will result in Customs inspection and examination which might cause delays. Since the cargo description used for submissions to the Dutch Customs is taken from the Bill of Lading, we ask you to start using only acceptable cargo descriptions within your Shipping Instructions. Furthermore, we strongly recommend following the cargo description guideline also for shipments to any other European countries. Attached you will find a list of examples of unacceptable and acceptable descriptions of goods.



**List of examples of unacceptable and acceptable descriptions of goods**

<b>Unacceptable</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>
Agricultural products	Oranges, Fish, Rice, Bread
Aid consignments	Blankets, Medications
Animals	Horse, Poultry, Bovine
Apparel	Men's Shirts, Lingerie, Girl's Vests, Boy's Vests
Appliances	Refrigerator, Stove, Microwave Oven, Coffee Machines
Auto Parts	Automobile Brakes, Windshield Glass for Automobiles
Caps	Plastic Caps
Chemicals, hazardous	Actual Chemical Name (not brand name)
Chemicals, non-hazardous	Actual Chemical Name (not brand name)
Cleaning Products	Alcohol, Detergents
Consolidated	(See other specific examples in the table)
Didactic Articles	Pencils, Smart boards, Books
Electronics	Computers, televisions, CD-players, Walkmans, Tape Recorders, Mobile Phones, Monitors, Printers
Equipment	Oil Well Equipment, Poultry Equipment
FAK Freight All Kinds	(See other specific examples in the table)
Foodstuffs	Beverages, (See other examples for "Agricultural products")
General cargo	(See other specific examples in the table)
Gifts	Dolls, Remote Control Cars
Household goods	Plates, Dishes, Tableware (See also examples for "appliances")
Industrial products	(See examples for "Electronics")
Iron and Steel	Iron Pipes, Steel Pipes, Iron Building Material, Steel Building Material
I.T. Goods	(See examples for "Electronics")
Leather Articles	Saddles, Leather Handbags, Leather Jackets
Machine Parts	Pumps, Seals, Engines
Machinery	Metal Working Machinery, Cigarette Making Machinery, Sewing Machines, Printing Machines
Machines	(See examples for Machinery)
Oil	Mineral Oil, Plant Oil
Ore	Iron Ore, Copper Ore



Parts	(See examples for "Machine Parts")
Personal Effects	See other specific examples in the table
Pipes	Plastic Pipes, Steel Pipes, Copper Pipes
Plants	Tulips
Plastic Goods	Plastic Kitchenware, Plastic House ware
Polyurethane	Polyurethane Threads, Polyurethane Medical Gloves
Propellant	(See Examples for "Chemicals")
Rubber Articles	Rubber Hoses, Rubber Conveyor Belts
Rod	Welding Rod, Fuel Rod, Copper Rod
Said to Contain	(See other specific examples in the table)
Sanitary Goods	Towels, Buckets, Detergents, Tooth Brushes
Scrap	Plastic Scrap, Foam Scrap, Iron Scrap
Spare parts	(See examples for "Machine Parts")
Textiles	Linen Fabric, T-Shirts, (see also examples for "Apparel")
Tools	Hand Tools, Electric Tools
Toys	See examples for "Gifts"
Various Products	(See other specific examples in the table)
Vehicles	Boats, Cars, Bicycles
Weapons	Daggers, Machine guns
Wires	Iron and Steel Wire, Copper Wires
Wooden Articles	Wooden Furniture, Wooden Kitchen Utensiles