STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

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NEWS RELEASE

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NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION IMPLEMENTS NEW REGULATIONS FOR ALL MOVERS OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS

On January 1, 2003, the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) implemented new regulations for ALL movers of household goods in North Carolina, including local movers. The new regulations require that ALL moving companies make application to the Commission and be issued a certificate of exemption which authorizes the movement of household goods between all points in North Carolina, including moves within the boundaries of towns and cities. Upon compliance with certain requirements, such as insurance and financial solvency, the applicant will be issued a certificate of exemption and a "C" number which is required to be displayed on the mover's vehicles. If consumers are uncertain that a mover has a certificate of exemption, they may contact the Commission at 919/733-4035.

The Commission also adopted a Maximum Rate Tariff (MRT) which became effective on January 1, 2003, and governs all moves within North Carolina, including local moves. All moving companies must comply with the rules and regulations contained in the MRT. The MRT provides maximum rates for both hourly moves and weight/distance moves. Hourly rates apply to all moves of 35 miles or less, and weight/distance rates apply to all moves of 36 miles or more. The mover and the consumer can negotiate for rates lower than the maximum rates contained in the MRT.

With the adoption of these new regulations, the Commission anticipates greater competition in the moving industry, specifically greater price competition and less restricted entry without jeopardizing essential consumer protections.

The Commission also approved an informational booklet for consumers, *Moving in North Carolina*, compiled by the Public Staff and the North Carolina Movers Association. Movers are required to provide the booklet to all potential customers. The booklet contains detailed information about the consumer's rights and responsibilities regarding a move within North Carolina.

The MRT and the consumer informational booklet, *Moving in North Carolina*, are on the Commission's website at www.ncuc.net under Consumer Information.