

Random Cargo

So, last week you wrapped up that little adventure on Santo to everyone's satisfaction. Now you have to get your PC's to Persephone for their next bit of excitement. You've given the stirring background to whet their appetite, provided a nice, gleaming player hook to get them motivated and things are going according to your clever plan...when suddenly...

Player (#1): Hmm...Persephone, huh? Well, we've got a day or two to spare before we really need to head out. I say we use that time to pick up a cargo job. I mean, yikes, we really need the extra money.

Player (#2): Yeah. Good idea. Me and Jones will hang around town and see if we can pick up any potential cargo jobs.

Lame Gamemaster: Erm....well...uh, you don't find any cargo jobs.

Player group: Awwwww.

(Aw, come on now. You can do better than that, right? With these nifty little tables we can magically produce cargo jobs for your players. So, let's try that one again...)

Exceedingly Clever and Awesome Gamemaster: Okay, cool. After a few hours Jones has found you a corporate job transporting 200 tons of PseudoLiquids to Persephone, taking up about half your cargo area and paying a whopping 400 credits. Meanwhile, you've found a slightly non-legal job delivering about 100 tons of recorded memory media...hmm...let's say some very nicely programmed virtual reality software, paying 200 credits.

Player (#3): Ooooooh. PseudoLiquids? Cool. As soon as we hit the black and no one's looking, I'm cracking open one of those containers and getting a look at that stuff..

Much better. Everyone's happy, you've got some extra money heading their way and it's looking very likely that Player #3 is going to do something really dumb and exciting.

So, how'd we do it? Here's how:

Finding cargo and generating random cargo.

Hauling cargo is the bread and butter of most spaceships, but sometimes it is feast or famine. A captain always takes a risk, no matter what kind of cargo he deals with. Corporate cargo is usually the most reliably profitable but requires bureaucratic talent. Small business is more plentiful but usually pays the least. Illicit cargo is not always plentiful and always risky, especially because the value of the cargo is usually variable and fluctuating.

Here's the skill checks to determine whether or not your player finds a cargo to haul. The action itself depends on whether they're looking for Corporate goods, dealing directly with smaller Business or making a back-alley deal for Illicit goods.

The Difficulty of a roll to attract jobs depends on how appropriate the approach is

to the location and circumstances.

Circumstances	Above Board	Pragmatic	Under the Table
Rich economy, good times	Easy	Average	Hard
Rich economy, hard times	Average	Average	Average
Standard economy	Average	Average	Average
Marginal economy, honest	Average	Average	Hard
Marginal economy, crooked	Hard	Average	Easy

Intelligence + Influence/Bureaucracy for Corporate goods.
 Willpower + Influence/Barter for small Business goods.
 Willpower + Influence/Streetwise for Illicit goods.

Results	Corporate	Small Business	Illicit
Botch:	Refusal to do business	No business to be had	Reported to Alliance
Failure:	2 credits x ¼ cargo space	1 credit x 1/3 cargo space	1d4 credits x ¼ cargo space
Success:	2 credits x ½ cargo space	1 credit x 2/3 cargo space	1d8 credits x ¼ cargo space
Extraordinary:	2 credits x full cargo	1 credit x full cargo space	1d10 credits x ½ cargo space

As you can see, anything but a Botch lands you some kind of cargo hauling opportunity. How large a cargo and how much you earn depends on the results from the table above.

For example:

Let's say the Circumstances are "Standard Economy". Meaning that we've considered the moon/planet our players are currently on and decided the local economy is neither particularly good or bad and local officials are neither especially crooked or honest. In other words, your average ho-hum moon. Now, Player #1 decides he's spending his time looking to land a nice, fat Corporate cargo job and doing so completely Above Board (not being particular about who he contacts, checking all the local bulletins, putting the word out on the street, etc.) This makes the Difficulty of finding a cargo Average.

Player #1 then makes an Average Intelligence+Influence/Bureaucracy check and gets a Success. Checking the table we get: "2cr x ½ cargo space". Looking at the player's ship's stats we find it has a Cargo Capacity of 400 tons. So, that gives us 200 tons of cargo (half the ship's cargo capacity) at 2 credits per ton (400 credits).

If you're particularly concerned with what exactly is being shipped (that is, if it isn't necessarily integral to the plot) then these tables can help you determine a random cargo, depending on what world is exporting or shipping out. The tables are geared more toward producing a random result than to specifically tailoring each table to the world in question. Hence, results will vary. Which is kind of the point.

Core	Border	Rim	Export/Cargo
1-10	1-5	1-15	Metal stocks/elements
11-25	6-10	16-25	Valuables
26-30	11-25	26-40	Organics and Livestock
31-45	26-35	41-45	Electronics
44-50	36-50	46-50	Tools and Machinery
51-65	51-60	51-55	Vehicles, Parts and Robotics
66-75	61-65	56-65	Chemicals, Compounds and Minerals
76-80	66-80	66-80	Perishables and Foods
81-100	81-100	81-100	Merchandise and Bulk items

Metal stocks/elements	
1-20	Aluminum stock
21-25	Beryllium
26-40	Copper stock
41-65	Iron stock
66-80	Lead stock
81-90	Magnesium stock
91-92	Rare Earths
93-94	Titanium stock
95-100	Zinc stock

Valuables	
1-15	Artworks
16-20	Diamonds, Rough/Cut
21-34	Precious Stones, Rough/Cut
35-50	Jewelry
51-64	Museum Artifacts
65-80	Precious metals: Gold/Silver/Platinum
51-100	Secured Valuables

Organics and Livestock	
1-6	Aquaculture Stock
7-12	Digestive Bacteria
13-19	Bio-Agents, Agricultural
20-25	Botanical Fibers
26-33	Fertilizer and Soil Treatments

34-41	General Livestock
42-47	Horses
48-52	Human Organs/Cybernetics
53-60	Live Plants
61-67	Livestock Embryos
68-74	Natural Gums
75-83	Paydirt
84-91	Pharmaceutical Plants
92-96	Small Animals
97-100	Specialty Grains

Electronics	
1-6	Computers and cortex terminals
7-13	Consumer electronics
14-18	Data Cable
19-24	Electromagnetic Transmitting Elements
25-29	Electronic Components
30-35	General Service Autonomous Robotic Devices
36-40	Industrial Process Robotics
41-47	Laser systems
48-53	Medical and scientific instruments
54-59	Medical Devices
60-63	Medical Diagnostic Imaging Systems
64-69	Memory media, unrecorded
70-74	Memory media, pre-recorded
75-79	Meters and Sensors
80-85	Miscellaneous Office machines
86-90	Power Cable
91-95	Satellites
96-100	Solar Electric Panels

Tools and Machinery	
1-4	Autobars
5-8	Construction Machinery, Extreme
9-12	Construction Machinery, static equipment and trailers
13-16	Conveyance machinery
17-20	Desalinization equipment/Mobile Desalinization
21-24	Equipment for the Disabled and Handicapped Equipment
25-28	Farm Machinery/Non-Self propelled Farm Machinery
29-32	Fire Fighting Equipment
33-36	Food Processing Equipment

37-40	Gambling and Gaming Equipment
41-44	Geophysical survey and mapping equipment
45-48	Gymnasium, Exercise, and Playground Equipment
49-52	Irradiation Devices
53-57	Metal Working Machinery
58-61	Metal or Synthetic working tools, dies, etc./Industrial Molds
62-65	Mining Machinery
66-69	Non-powered Hand Tools
70-73	Police Equipment
74-77	Portable Drilling Rig/Pile Drivers
78-83	Power Driven Hand Tools
84-87	Pumps and Compressors
88-91	Space Habitat Modules
92-95	Specialized Autonomous Robotic Devices
96-100	Textile Related Machinery

Vehicles, Parts and Robotics	
1-4	Ambulances, Wheeled/Hover
5-8	Bicycles
9-12	Boats, Civilian
13-16	Busses
17-20	Civil Aircraft
21-24	Construction Vehicles
25-28	Fire Fighting Vehicles
29-32	LTA Aircraft
33-36	Mobile Food Service Units, Non-Self Propelled
37-40	Mobile Food Service Units, Self Propelled and trailer mounted
41-44	Motorcycles
45-48	Passenger Cars
49-52	Rail transport systems
53-56	Recreational Vehicles, Wheeled/Hover
57-61	Robotic Vehicles
62-68	Salvage
69-72	Small utility vehicles
73-76	Small Watercraft, Powered/Unpowered
77-80	Spacecraft/Alliance military Spacecraft
81-84	Spacecraft Parts
85-88	Tires: Aviation Tires/Alliance military/Heavy Tires

89-92	Trucks, semi-trailer/Trucks, van
93-96	Underwater Utility Robots
97-100	Vehicle Parts

Chemicals, Compounds and Minerals	
1-4	Abrasives
5-8	Adhesives
9-12	Biocides
13-16	Ceramics
17-20	Consumer packaged chemical goods
21-23	Disinfectants
24-27	Drugs
28-31	Epoxy Resins
32-33	Explosives
34-35	Finished Stone
36-39	Fire retardant foams/Anti Kinetic Foams
40-43	Foils and Laminates
44-47	Industrial Acids
48-51	Industrial Gasses
52-55	Insulating Foam/Structural Foam
56-59	Lubricants
60-62	Nuclear Fuel Elements
63-66	Paint
67-70	Pesticides and Vermicides
71-74	Preservative and Fire retardant Chemicals
75-78	Primary Plastic Resins
79-82	PseudoLiquids
83-86	Reaction fuel
87-90	Refrigerants
91-94	Repellants
95-97	Soap and Detergent
98-100	Waxes and Polishes

Perishables and Foods	
1-4	Animal Feed
5-7	Apiary Supplies
8-11	Beer Concentrate
12-15	Coffee/Chicory Roasted, Sorted and Graded Coffee beans
16-19	Condensed Milk

20-23	Dairy Foods
24-27	Eggs
28-31	Emergency, Alliance military, or Humanitarian pre-packaged Rations
32-34	Extracts
35-38	Fertile Eggs
39-42	Flavoring, Syrup and Concentrates
43-46	Frozen Dairy Desserts
47-50	Fruit Juice Concentrate
51-54	Meat/Meat, Frozen
55-58	Non Perishable Prepared Foods
59-62	Nuts
63-65	Pickles/Jams, Jellies, and Fruit Preserves
66-70	Produce, General
71-74	Seafood
75-78	Special Prepared Food
79-83	Spices
84-88	Tea Prepared, packaged Tea
89-92	Vegetable Oils Liquid Cargo
93-96	Vitamins
97-100	Wine/Distilled Spirits

Merchandise and Bulk items	
1	Alliance military Kit
2-3	Basic Educational Materials
4-5	Batteries
6-7	Bulbs and other Expendable Lighting Elements
8-9	Bulk Chocolate
10-11	Cabinetry
12-13	Carpets and Rugs
14-15	Chocolate Confectionery Products
16-17	Collapsed Shipping Containers
18-19	Commercial/Industrial/Institutional lighting fixtures
20-21	Cosmetics
22-23	Dental Hygiene Expendables
24-25	Disposable Diapers
26-27	Dolls and Stuffed Toys
28	Emergency Shelters
29-30	Expendable Filter Elements

31-32	Finished Textiles
33-34	Furs
35-36	Games, Toys, and Children's Vehicles
37-38	General Clothing
39-40	General Parcels
41	Hair Care Products and treatments
42-43	Handicrafts
44-45	Hardwood Lumber
46-47	Hardware
48-49	Hazardous Environment Clothing
50	Heavy Weapons
51-52	Leather, Fur, and Hide Apparel
53-54	Lingerie, Loungewear and Nightwear
55-56	Luggage
57-58	Medical/Scientific Sterile Expendables
59-60	Millwork, Marquetry, and Carvings
61-62	Miscellaneous Office Supplies
63	Munitions
64-65	Musical Instruments
66-67	Novelties, Collectibles, Souvenirs, And Curios
68-69	Prefabricated Collapsible Structures
70-71	Prefabricated Modular Buildings
72-73	Printed Materials
74-75	Private Household Goods
76-77	Pyrotechnics
78-79	Seasonal and Holiday Decorations
80-81	Rope, Cordage and Twine
82	Sensitive Alliance Cargo
83-84	Signage
85	Small Arms
86-87	Small Arms Ammunition
88-89	Special Decorative Lighting fixtures
90-91	Sporting Goods
92-93	Synthetic Blood Plasma
94-95	Wall Coverings
96-97	Windows and Doors/Ornamental and Architectural castings, stampings, etc
98-100	Work Clothing

Abrasives

Used in Industry, but mostly in mining and construction as cutting agents. Abrasives are bought from manufacturers and sold to corporations, and sometimes retailers serving mining and construction operations.

Adhesives

Used in industry, in construction and sold also to retailers for repackaging. Bought from chemical manufacturers. Relatively few buyers need adhesives on a wholesale level, and those that do generally want what they want when they need it, so this class of chemical goods makes for an erratic speculative cargo. On the other hand, on an under-supplied frontier planet, a shipment of adhesives is the sort of thing that gets the "I wonder what I could do with *that*" gears turning in the heads of local engineers so the demand might be surprising.

Alliance military kit

Body armor, equipment harness, and other generally wearable items associated with the Alliance military. Alliance military organizations usually do not scrutinize carriers of these cargos as they do with weapons. On occasion, military kits will be sold to non military retailers or organizations. Sellers are manufacturers.

Aluminum stock

Basic stock shapes of Aluminum, and aluminum alloys. These are obtained from Aluminum Refineries and sold to manufacturers, developers, and sometimes retailers serving industry. As a standard bulk material, this is a hard one for the small trader, as large supplies and regular deliveries at cheap prices are the norm.

Ambulances, Wheeled/Hover

Specialized vehicles for rescue and medical evacuation. Generally, stock vehicles are bought by special manufacturers and converted. Bought directly by organizations with medical evacuation roles, including hospitals, civil services, and the Alliance military.

Animal Feed

In general, animals will not be raised where the local conditions do not permit the production of food, but there are exceptions. The biggest one is in the area of

supplementary feeds. Sometimes the soil of terraformed planets and moons, even where digestible and nutritious for livestock, lacks some key nutrients, which must be provided in supplementary feed. Hence, many tons of the stuff are in demand in such environments. Buyers will be farms, or dealers stocking goods for farms. Sellers will be dealers or manufacturers.

Special Instructions: Some animal feeds, like grains, can produce flammable dust.

Apiary Supplies

Definitely one of those "special cargos" the independent traders love so much. 50% of pallets contain hives with live bees. These have been drugged so as to remain less active, but are still alive. They need standard atmospheric conditions and occasional monitoring and feeding to survive lengthy voyages. Buyers are farms, farm co-ops, and agencies that support farms. Sellers are other farms, or on occasion specialized apiarist suppliers.

Special Instructions. Live Cargo

Aquaculture Stock

Eggs and larvae that will mature into edible fish and other sea creatures. Once an aquaculture farm is up and running, it is usually self sufficient in stock, but new sites will be established and older farms will occasionally purchase new stock to improve their lines. Aquaculture stock is transported in special refrigerated canisters packed onto refrigerated pallets. The cargo is liquid, but since it is transported in relatively small canisters the hazards of moving a bulk liquid do not apply. Purchasers are pretty much limited to aquaculturalists and fish hatcheries, and suppliers are other aquaculturalists and fish hatcheries, generally larger and more established ones but occasionally small and specialized "breeder" farms.

Special Instructions: Refrigerated live cargo. Cargo will be rapidly destroyed if refrigeration is lost.

Artworks

Includes painting, sculptures, and other elements of tangible art, other than museum exhibits. This can work as a speculative cargo, provided the trader picks the right market and most importantly, knows it well. Very well. The amateur art dealer is in

trouble. Sources are artists, galleries, and dealers, and sometimes auction houses. Buyers are dealers, galleries, individuals, and institutions. Larger orders for artwork may be in the form of large commissioned works needing 2-10 pallet sized spaces.
Special Instructions: Delicate Cargo

Autobars

Robotic devices designed to mix and serve a variety of beverages, generally alcohol based. Autobars need to be periodically restocked, and that can create repeat business for the trader. Autobar demand is subject to cultural restrictions. Like many types of specialized machinery, the Autobar is available in a wide variety of models, with different features and appearances. The trader should be an astute buyer and seller, especially if this is to be speculative cargo. Sellers are dealers and manufacturers, buyers are retailers, dealers, corporations, organizations, and sometimes individuals.

Basic Educational Materials

This category includes printed workbooks, as well as models and demonstration media, charts and posters, displays and other types of elementary and primary school level educational material. Sellers will be manufacturers, buyers will be typically rim world governments and communities where cortex access is unfeasible or prohibitively expensive. Rarely a good speculative cargo, as school officials will wish to choose in advance what educational materials they wish to order. Locally connected traders have a definite advantage in this area.

Batteries

One of the denser cargos and in general use everywhere, hence a workable speculative cargo. Batteries are bought by retailers, and vehicle and equipment manufacturers, and certain organizations. They are sold by wholesalers and manufacturers.

Special Instructions: Batteries may contain toxic or corrosive chemicals. Electrical hazard.

Beer Concentrate

It was inevitable. After humanity began to spread out across the worlds, it was quickly realized that beer and similar beverages were too bulky to cheaply transport. Beer concentrate was invented. Shortly

thereafter, Concentrated Beer Concentrate appeared. Within a decade, "CBC" had become the standard, and the redundant name was no longer necessary. Beer concentrate is sold to retailers, including bars and restaurants. It is obtained from brewers. Beer concentrate is packed in small drums on pallets. It can build up considerable pressure. It can be an effective speculative cargo, especially the more exotic brands.

Beryllium

Includes Beryllium alloys. A high value light weight metal used in aerospace and other application where extreme strength to weight ratios are desired. Sources will be Refineries and dealers. Buyers will be specialized factories and dealers. It's relative rarity makes it a potential speculative cargo even though it is a bulk raw material, as buyers will usually want to acquire reserves stock if the price is good. One significant downside to transport: The stuff is very toxic. Exposure to small amounts can cause chronic diseases.

Special Instructions: Toxic and an environmental hazard

Bicycles

Also includes parts for bicycles. Generally shipped un-assembled in pallets. Popular un-powered vehicles, and a good potential speculative cargo where the conditions are right. Markets for bicycles tend to be poor in places with severe climates, or rim worlds where horses largely take precedence. Sellers are manufacturers, buyers are retailers.

Bio-Agents, Agricultural

The term "bio-agent" may conjure images of biological warfare, and in a sense, that's what it is, but not the type directed against humans. Most bio agents are natural or tailored organisms which are deployed to kill unwanted organisms. The Bio-Agents are usually microbes, but insects are not unknown; for example, parasitic wasps may be released to control a beetle infestation. Bio-Agents are frequently engineered so as to be non-viable in the natural environment after a few generations, but there use always has an element of environmental risk. Sometimes, they are used by agencies charged with eliminating pests or unwanted

creatures from an area other than a farm. For example, a virus may be spread to kill a fungus attacking a forest, or rats infesting a city. Sellers will be the rare specialized producers. Buyers are farms and agencies charged with maintaining the environment. Most Bio-Agents are very specific. Bio-Agents are supposed to be benign to humans, but there may be medical consequences to inhaling, for example, the massive dosage of fungal spores that may be released should a canister rupture.

Special Instructions: Refrigerated Live Cargo. Possible health and environmental hazards.

Biocides

Potent chemicals designed to sterilize a large area. Used as a last ditch means of removing biological contaminations, or on worlds as a means of preventing native organisms from spreading into areas where they are not wanted. Buyers will be Farms, Farm Co-ops, retailers, and certain organizations.

Suppliers will be chemical manufacturers. Special Instructions: Liquid Cargo, Highly Toxic.

Boats, Civilian

Fishing Boats, Yachts, Utility and work craft, rescue craft, or other boats. Includes hovercraft designed to operate primarily on water. Boats have overnight capability, otherwise they are considered, small watercraft. These are sold singly, and are vehicle cargos with their own particular difficulty: They can't be driven on and off by themselves. As vehicles, they take up space but are not packed in containers. They are sometimes shipped on wheeled trailers to make shipping easier, but this increases the space each unit takes up. Buyers include dealers, fishing co-ops, agencies who operate boats, and private individuals. Sellers are generally dealers and manufacturers. Some boats are very large "oversize" cargos.

Botanical Fibers

Cotton and others. Suppliers are farms. Buyers are textile plants. Steady production and steady requirements, and a low cost bulky product are a bad combo for the small trader. Leave it to the bulk carriers. But, every now and then, you may find an obscure product, or an some product of

exceptional quality. Pounce on it. A textile company might pay a lot to be first on the market with a unique fabric. If it becomes more popular, eventually, the big boys will squeeze you out (or you might make some quick money and be ready to become a big boy yourself) and then its time to move on. Another end of this cargo type you can deal in is very high end, quality material.

Bulbs and other Expendable Lighting Elements

The lighting devices of the modern 'verse does not burn itself out every 1000 hours or so like its Earth-that-was ancestor, but it still needs periodic replacement, especially in the more powerful fixtures.

Bulk Chocolate

Bulk Chocolate is an acceptable speculative cargo, as it will certainly provide the needed choco-fix to the desperate. It is also in demand by border world industries, in this case Food processing plants, especially those turning out Chocolate Confectionery Products. Chocolate is supplied by chocolate manufacturers, which typically buy the beans from plantations.

Special Instructions: Heat and exposure to vacuum will ruin the product. However, chocolate need not be refrigerated if room temperature can be maintained, nor kept in atmospheres if it packed in airtight containers.

Busses

Large people carrying vehicles. Typically ordered by local governments, transport organizations, or other groups needing to move large numbers of people over road networks. Not a typical speculative cargo. Sources are Manufacturers. A vehicular cargo.

Cabinetry

A good export for worlds with forests with attractive hardwoods, but a difficult cargo to work in speculative mode. There are simply too many styles and designs. Better to run around with a full set of samples and offer to bring back filled orders on the next run. Or, deliver finished wood or synthetic products to a cabinetry shop on a planet and let them do the actual fabrication. Cabinetry includes not only wood, but pieces molded from resins and synthetic materials, but wood is

still held in the highest regard. Sources are manufacturers, (who are themselves buyers of lumber, synthetic stock, and some chemicals) and buyers are retailers and developers. Buyers may also include local installers, as well as manufacturers of finished products to be installed in cabinets, such as computers or entertainment devices or large appliances.

Special Instructions: Natural wood products should not be exposed to vacuum or environmental extremes.

Carpets and Rugs

Textile floor coverings of all sorts, from mass produced simple carpet rolls to small rugs to adhesive backed carpet tiles to hand made oriental carpets. The latter, of course, being of highest value, along with soft angora and alpaca rugs and similar luxury products. The high end of this cargo class which is figured on a per pallet basis, makes a good speculative cargo. The low end is generally shipped as needed, in containers. Buyers are retailers and developers. Buyers of high end carpets are usually dealers, or sometimes individuals or organizations with an interest. Sellers are manufacturers and dealers.

Ceramics

Includes ceramic devices and parts as well as such things as cups and plates, tiles, fixtures, and ornamentals. Sources are manufacturers and dealers, buyers are dealers and retailers, and sometimes factories and certain organizations. A workable speculative cargo.

Special Instructions: Handle with care

Chocolate Confectionery Products

This form of Chocolate works well as a speculative cargo, as it is something buyers will purchase on the spur of the moment, and demand is as close to universal as you get. It makes for good repeat business as well, thanks to the chocolate's mildly addictive qualities. Chocolate is supplied by chocolate confectioners, and generally purchased by retailers.

Special Instructions. Heat and exposure to vacuum will ruin the product. However, chocolate need not be refrigerated if room temperature can be maintained, nor kept in atmospheres as it can be packed in airtight containers.

Civil Aircraft

Non-military aircraft are typically recreational, passenger, or cargo types. One trick to remember if you are getting into the aviation business - each world has different flying conditions and models of aircraft are not universally interchangeable, although many can be adapted from one to another. Buyers are corporations, agencies, and organizations needing aircraft, and in some cases wealthy individuals. Sellers are aviation manufacturers. Aircraft are a vehicle cargo, but they are rather awkward. Most have to be partly disassembled and specially prepared for transport.

Special Instructions: Delicate Cargo.

Coffee/Chicory Roasted, Sorted and Graded Coffee beans

Not as popular as it was on Earth-that-was, having long since been eclipsed by tea, but still a decent speculative cargo. Shipments are frequently made in whole container amounts where quantities justify. Sellers are generally coffee plantations. Buyers are typically retail markets, wholesalers, food processing plants, and institutions (Alliance military, educational, large hotel/restaurant chains, etc) that do a lot of feeding. Chicory is occasionally desired as a coffee substitute.

Collapsed Shipping Containers

Due to imbalances in the type and volume of shipping, shipping containers (here containers means containers and pallets) will often accumulate at one point and be in short supply at another point. Typically, this is not a job for a small freighter. There is little money in it, and the shipping back of empty containers is not a high priority, so they tend to go on the big bulk carriers. Still, there are times when shipping containers are urgently needed somewhere. This may be because a local industry has found itself with an unexpected increase in orders and production, and needs to react. Or, perhaps a new start up industry is trying to establish itself. Also, from time to time, shipping containers need to be replaced, so new ones are shipped from specialist factories.

Commercial/Industrial/Institutional lighting fixtures

Generally lightweight and easy to move, these run from simple overhead fixtures used in institutions to decorative street

lighting to area outdoor lighting. Demand will be sporadic and therefore this cargo is tricky if bought as speculation.

Computers and cortex terminals

A popular item, central to the daily functioning of humanity. Sellers are manufacturers. Buyers are institutions, corporations, agencies of all kinds, and retailers.

Special Instructions: Avoid rough handling.

Condensed Milk

Condensed milk, although heavier, is a far more desirable product than dehydrated milk powder. Typically irradiated and sterilized, it does not have to be refrigerated. Buyers are typically retail markets, and institutions (Alliance military, educational, large hotel/restaurant chains, etc) that do a lot of feeding, and food processing plants. Sellers are dairy wholesalers and dairy farm co-ops. Containers are specialized tanks. Sometimes, smaller tanks will be used so the cargo can be broken into pallets and sent to diverse locations easily. This will generally be the case when the destination is anything but a wholesaler or food processor.

Special Instructions: Liquid Cargo

Construction Machinery, Extreme

These vehicles are massive cranes and earth movers, huge mechanical monsters that even challenge a ship with a large cargo bay. These are not suitable for speculative cargo because they represent a substantial investment on the part of the corporation purchasing them and are typically ordered in advance. There is no standard market, but they are more likely to be delivered to worlds with substantial mining and construction activity. Sellers are manufacturers, and they appreciate sales efforts by traders.

Special Instructions: These vehicles tend to be especially abusive to floors. If driving aboard an interface craft, make sure the floors are well protected.

Construction Machinery, static equipment and trailers

Non-self propelled but generally portable equipment used in the construction trades, including mixers, hoists, portable welding sets, saws, compressors, and other tools. Purchased by construction oriented

organizations and also by retailers. Produced by specialized manufacturers. Vehicular cargo.

Construction Vehicles

A wide range of bulldozers, scrapers, loaders, mixers, excavators, and other self propelled construction machinery is included in this category. In demand everywhere there is heavy construction work, by developers and Alliance, and also by retailers. Provided by specialty manufacturers.

Consumer electronics

The home television, audio/visual recording systems and the home stereo system have since merged to become one cortex/entertainment system. Not all electronics devoted to entertainment purposes are cortex dependent, however. This class is the purely entertainment side of the house, usually portable video and holographic games and the like. Consumer electronics are sold to retailers, and on occasion, to organizations. Suppliers are manufacturers.

Special Instructions: High magnetic fields and high energy radiation can damage components. Keep shielded.

Consumer packaged chemical goods

This cargo represents a broad array chemical products packaged in small convenient containers for local distribution to consumers. This cargo, whether regular freight or speculative, is usually bound for a border world. Larger markets find it easier to import products in pallet or container sized tanks and repackage them. Sources of consumer packaged chemical goods will be dealers, wholesalers, and manufacturers (at least, those which supply a broad range). Buyers are just about everyone, with retailers in the fore. Two important precautions: first, "consumer packaged" means exactly that. If a shipping container ruptures, do not expect the many individual containers to provide much defense. In fact, they will only add to the misery, as many of the products will be packed under pressure, and will burst in vacuum. Second, with the broad range of products, all kinds of reactions will take place and by products released in a major rupture situation. In its way it is less predictable and more

dangerous than a rupture of a tank containing a single dangerous chemical.

Conveyance machinery

Generally, large fixed machinery designed to move people or things from one place to another. Installed at buildings, at freight handling facilities, and aboard ships including starships. Conveyance machinery is almost always ordered for a specific use, and systems are customized. It is considered a vehicle cargo, as it is not packed in containers, but it is not self propelled and is notoriously bulky and unwieldy. An exception is conveyance machinery built for the mining and construction industries, which is often trailer mounted and portable. Example of conveyance machinery include move slideways, escalators, conveyor belts and other machines.

Copper stock

Includes alloys of copper such as brass, bronze, etc. A basic metal with widespread industrial applications, copper is one of those standards that tend to be avoided by the small freighters. Suppliers are smelters and dealers. Buyers are factories, and sometimes developers.

Cosmetics

For the trader who can keep up with shifts in fashion and demand, a good, high value to volume speculative cargo. Novelty items can often find a market, but this category includes many tried and true classic cosmetics, toiletries, and scents, which are often exceptionally profitable items considering their size. Sources are manufacturers and dealers. Buyers are almost always retailers.

Dairy Foods

Miscellaneous Dairy products including cheese and butter, moved in refrigerated containers. Includes imitation dairy such as Tofu. Buyers are typically retail markets, and institutions (Alliance military, educational, large hotel/restaurant chains, etc) that do a lot of feeding, and food processing plants.

Special Instructions: Refrigerated Cargo

Data Cable

Reels of cable, usually optical, for the transmission of data. Used by developers

and organizations providing communications networks, also acquired by retailers and manufacturers. Sold by specialized manufacturers. Demand is universal, and cable is non-perishable, so data cable can work as a speculative good.

Dental Hygiene Expendables

Buyers are retail companies, occasionally institutions. (Although for most schools, Alliance military units, etc, this is something that is bought "on the outside".) Sellers are factories. This is a steady mover, and as such buyers will often want regular sources, but the independent trader can generally find buyers for new brands, new products, and bargain products. The independent trader might also be involved in test marketing for a manufacturer- deliver a pallet to that place and we'll see what happens. The best thing about Dental Hygiene Expendables is that they are a safe, if small bet, for the speculator, as they are needed universally, and they have a reasonable cost to volume/mass ratio. If you can't unload them in one port, you can take them anywhere.

Desalinization equipment/Mobile Desalinization Equipment

This equipment will be useful on water short worlds with salty seas. There is no regular market. Machinery of this type is ordered on a need basis, when a new desalinization plant is built or an old one replaced or upgraded. Likewise, there is no regular source. Suppliers are specialized manufacturers who will usually build desalinization equipment on as-needed basis. That being said, no manufacturer would have any objection to a trader with the right connections trying to drum up business, and will make it worth that trader's while. The mobile version is truck or trailer mounted and is a vehicular cargo. These are rare, but are used on rim worlds to provide water to explorers or Alliance military units deployed away from civilized areas.

Diamonds, Rough/Cut; Precious Stones, Rough/Cut

Buyers of raw diamonds and other gems are places with gem cutting businesses, sellers are diamond and gem mines. Finished diamonds and gems are sold from the cutters to jewelry makers, retailers, or

dealers (or merely moved, as they may be the same firm). As both of the first two are rare, there is no real calculable Typical market. Gem Cutters want all they can get, sellers will want to unload whatever they have, and Jewelry makers can afford no more than a tray or two at a time . The quantity is small enough, though, so that usually, even the annual source from a mine will be less than half a pallet of trays of gems. Traders will keep them in a ship's vault, or among personal possessions, or in another special place. If a trader is being paid to move diamonds or gems as freight, the owner will usually be very interested in the security procedures and overall reputation, and will take steps to make certain that the amount of diamonds or gems at the end of the voyage is the correct amount.

Digestive Bacteria

Not what it sounds like. Digestive Bacteria are the staple of recycling centers, waste disposal centers, and some plastics industries. They break down waste products and metabolize recoverable usable proteins. Periodically, a population in an industrial setting will begin to "lose coherence" as mutant strains less useful from the human point of view begin to multiply. When this happens, new bacteria must be shipped in. New bacteria are also used to establish new facilities. Sellers will be the rare specialized producers. Buyers will be the operators of waste disposal and sewage plants everywhere, and certain plastics factories. *Special Instructions: Refrigerated Live Cargo. If Canisters open, they will die quickly, but in the process they may cause extreme damage to certain synthetic materials*

Disinfectants

Chemicals used to kill microbes in an area, while remaining safe for other living things. At least, in the quantities normally used. Rupture a whole tank of the stuff, and it's not a good idea to breath nearby. Buyers are retailers and sometimes institutions that go through a lot of the stuff. Seller are manufacturers. *Special Instructions; Liquid Cargo, Toxic*

Disposable Diapers

One of the technological advances that made

modern civilization possible, although contributing massively to landfill problems. Disposable diapers can be a much higher priority item than one might think, if the market has been neglected for too long. Sold to retailers, and bought from manufacturers. Demand will be closely linked to the population's fertility level, of course.

Dolls and Stuffed Toys

On the low end, simple stuffed animals and plastic dolls. On the high end, includes many with animatronics features. Advanced technology has led to a blurring of the line between toy and robot. Many examples are state of the art. As in other toy categories, a good feel for the whims of children and good timing can make a speculative trader wealthy. Buyers are retailers, and sometimes organizations. Sellers are manufacturers.

Drugs

Prepared medicines. Supplied by manufacturers, and bought by hospitals, retailers, and organizations with a need to acquire them. One of the more valuable cargos in terms of value per unit ton or unit mass.

Eggs

Yes, Eggs, infertile and generally from chickens. Eggs are good food sources in their own packages (although they need protective packages to avoid damage) and with the advent of advanced poultry genetic engineering, not nearly as health threatening as they were in the bad old days. They keep well when refrigerated, and are a good "rounding out cargo" to carry when visiting worlds of limited agricultural production.

Special Instructions: Refrigerated, Delicate Cargo

Electromagnetic Transmitting Elements

Such things as antennas and control equipment. Stuff for the sending and radio, television, microwave, and other communications signals. Bought by communications oriented organizations, sold by manufacturers.

Electronic Components

Small parts that are used to make and repair electronic devices. Sold by manufacturers,

and bought by retailers as well as other manufacturers, and Alliance military and other organizations that maintain a lot of electronic equipment.

Emergency, Alliance military, or Humanitarian pre-packaged Rations

Typically not a speculative item, but there are certain exceptions. Often, these are a priority cargo going to a place stricken by an acute food shortage, in a case of natural disaster. More frequently, they are shipped as a part of regular Alliance military sustenance program that in many cases is handled with chartered civilian ships. Another possible destination is an agency, foundation, or organization that is acquiring supplies as part of an ordinary preparedness program, or an agency or corporation that needs pre-prepared rations to sustain people in a wilderness environment, such as scientists working in the field. Finally, certain retailers, particularly those supporting wilderness recreation, and wilderness oriented businesses, will purchase these meals. Sources are typically specialized food processing plants, although the cargo may be being moved from a warehouse belonging to one of the organizations above.

Emergency Shelters

Generally, tents and other such portable shelter designed for quick erection and resistance to the elements. In times of crisis, this may be shipped to an area temporarily lacking in regular housing. Or, it may be delivered as part of Alliance military supplies, or to an agency or organization stocking up for future contingencies. Alternatively, it may be delivered to retailers and organizations interested in wilderness operations, such as recreational groups, or it may be brought in temporarily as part of a cultural program or fair requiring temporary shelter. Sources are manufacturers, warehouses, and dealers.

Epoxy Resins

Chemicals that consist of several parts, stored separately, that must be mixed for the material to harden. A staple in the chemical industry, used by developers and manufacturers, and also sold to retailers. Bought from chemical plants. Like paint, normally shipped in smaller containers

stacked on pallets to prevent the settling that might occur in larger tanks. Exposure to air will ruin the product, keep in sealed container.

Special Instructions: Avoid mixing of parts.

Equipment for the Disabled and Handicapped

This is various powered and un-powered equipment designed to assist the handicapped and infirm. This category also includes such ancillary medical equipment as stretchers and portable hospital beds, immobilization devices, supports, crutches, etc. Buyers will be medical retailers, hospitals, and organizations with major medical activities. Seller will be manufacturers.

Explosives

Used in mining, in some construction, and in the production of ordinance. Buyers will be Alliance military agencies, or corporations or other organizations with permission to own explosives, not retailers. Suppliers will be explosive manufacturers, which are rather rare. Transport of Explosives may require special inspections, permits, licenses, etc, and when arriving at a port, local authorities usually like to be told if you have a hold full of the stuff.

Special Instructions: Handle with extreme care, avoid excess heat and/or oxygen at all costs.

Expendable Filter Elements

Screens, fillers, and other filter materials that are used and then discarded. A very important delivery for colonies needing sophisticated life support. Suppliers are Manufacturers, purchasers are spaceships, agencies that see to the purification of water and air, industries, and some retailers.

Extracts

Related to the Spice industry, but with a few key differences. Extracts are more likely to be prepared in factories, not picked and dried or otherwise simply obtained. Thus they are less speculative and more like an industrial good. Buyers are generally food processors, retailers or organizations doing a lot of food processing. Also, less likely to be effected by harvests.

Farm Machinery/Non-Self propelled

Farm Machinery.

The general Farm machinery category covers tractors, combines, harvesters, and implements that are vehicles in their own right. The Non-Self propelled category includes trailer mounted devices, as well as equipment that is typically immobile, such as milking machines. All are shipped in half container or full container units, and are considered vehicle cargos. Buyers will be farms and farm co-ops and dealers, sellers will be specialized manufacturers. This machinery is often very specialized, and therefore a speculative trader is advised to know his machinery well and seek out specific information on the agricultural processes at his intended market. It does no good to show up with harvesters for grain when the local market is full of fruit orchards.

Fertile Eggs

Birds and reptiles have been kind enough to provide humanity with easily transportable embryos in convenient carrying cases. This makes establishing populations of Chickens, Turkeys, Emus, and Alligators on distant worlds fairly easy. The one hitch is the fact that the eggs do not halt their development, and so when fertile eggs are shipped, especially to distant worlds, eggs do not arrive, small birds do. The problem is neatly solved by shipping the eggs in special incubator pallets, which will also automatically raise the young birds or lizards after they are born. The incubator pallet gives a range of 70 days to the delivery of the stock - beyond that and the incubator will no longer be able to support them. Fertile eggs are bought by farms and farm co-ops looking to establish, expand, or improve flocks. The eggs are obtained from farms and farm co-ops, which typically want their incubator pallets back. They will charge for them if the tip is just one-way, but often, the colony farms will buy them, as they are handy to have around as incubators to breed further stock.

Special Instructions: Live and Fragile cargo.

Fertilizer and Soil Treatments

Surprisingly, for a bulk product, this is not one of those "regularly shipped" products. Farmers find their needs going up and down, and will often buy an available cargo

and store it, if the price is good. Still, in terms of mass to money ratio, it's not one of the better ones. Sometimes, to boost agricultural output, local governments and farm oriented organizations might subsidize shipment. Sell to farms and farm co-ops. Buy from Fertilizer plants. Use a bit of caution - some fertilizer is explosive. *Special Instructions: In some cases, explosive. Handle with due care.*

Finished Textiles

Typically moved by bulk carriers, but small traders often run across examples of specialty cloth the big shippers overlook (or don't have the time to go looking for) and the fashion market is always on the prowl for the interesting and exotic. These finds often lead to long term demands - or at least, long term until fads change again, at which point the big regular shippers come in and steal the trade from the little guys, who go off in search of the next big thing. Buyers are manufacturers that use textiles (which goes beyond just clothing factories to include makers of upholstered furniture, vehicles, etc) and suppliers are a variety of textile producers, everything from silk spinners to synthetic textile plants to old fashioned mills turning out wool and cotton. Some of the high tech fabrics are engineered to be expendable, and disposable, working on the theory that no one wants to keep an article of clothing after its been worn a few times. This serves to bump up demand.

Special Instructions: Many fabrics are damaged by exposure to vacuum or environmental extremes.

Finished Stone

Uncommon, but now and then people will have a taste for dressed (usually honed) surfaces made with the stone of another planet. Common when trying to replicate a certain architectural style in true authentic form. Some of the more exotic, decorative finished stone makes a good speculative cargo. Honed stone is normally shipped between stars in thin sheets which are then bonded to locally available material, although exceptions are made for special shapes. Buyers are builders and retailers serving the building trade. Occasionally, organizations and individuals sponsoring an exceptional construction project Sellers are quarries and stone mills. Bear in mind that

not all construction stone can take on an attractive, exotic finish.

Special Instructions: Vulnerable to cracking and chipping.

Fire Fighting Equipment

Devices, machines, and systems for the detection, control, and extinguishing of fires excluding vehicles and expendable supplies. Includes such things as man portable fire extinguishers and fixed fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, etc. Not exactly a standard commodity, but of importance, an developers, as well as shipbuilders will be buyers. Organizations of all sorts will also acquire equipment, as will some retailers.

Special Instructions: Bleed and clear all pressurized systems before exposure to vacuum

Fire Fighting Vehicles

Ground Vehicles specific to the role of firefighting. Generally acquired by the Alliance as a special purchase, sometimes by corporations that have to provide their own fire fighting services. Sellers are Manufacturers.

Special Instructions: Be sure all pressurized systems are bled and left open prior to exposure to vacuum.

Fire retardant foams/Anti Kinetic Foams

The former is a class of chemicals that expands into foam and smothers fire. The latter is a liquid that forms a foam with an energy absorbing structure (typically by forming millions of tiny bubbles, each of which absorbs kinetic energy in breaking) used in emergency anti-collision, anti-blast, and bomb disposal applications. Shipped as a liquid, and used from pressurized tanks, but typically not pressurized during transport. Even so, a rupture of a tank can have serious effects in a hold. Buyers of fire fighting foams will be companies that recharge fire fighting foam apparatus, and major firefighting users such as spaceports, airports, and sea ports. Demand will spike markedly higher after a major fire, as fire fighting apparatus will have to be recharged. Larger users will insist on container sized loads. Buyers of anti-kinetic foams include vehicle manufacturers and major operators, and security and rescue oriented agencies.

Special Instructions: Liquid Cargo, under

pressure, foams upon contact with air.

Flavoring, Syrup and Concentrates

A liquid cargo, consisting of various food ingredients (and some sold as is in their final form, like maple syrup) that are strongly distilled. Also includes soft drink syrups and other reductions. Buyers will be retailers or food processors. Sellers will be farms, farm co-ops, and food processors. Sold in drums stacked on pallets. Retailers will usually re-package for local distribution.

Special Instructions: Liquid Cargo. A real mess to clean up if it spills. DO not expose to environmental extremes.

Foils and Laminates

Generally shipped in large rolls, 4 to a pallet. Foils and Laminates are sold to factories of all kinds, both as stock for that factory's production and as packaging material. In the case of the latter, they are frequently pre-printed in a design for the product to be eventually enclosed within. From time to time, a run of foils or laminates printed in such a manner will be excess, and will be sold off for whatever minimal price the seller can get. Foils and laminates can also be sold to retailers who will repackage them in convenient sizes for general use.

Contemporary foils are very thin and strong, and can be transparent, or have mirror finished surfaces, or surfaces in any other color. Sellers will be manufacturers and dealers. One odd risk of transporting foils is the habit of the layers of foil to weld themselves together when exposed to vacuum. this results in a large and useless cylindrical mass where a roll of foil existed before.

Special instruction: Should not be exposed to vacuum, water, or environmental extremes

Food Processing Equipment

Machinery used in the large scale food preparation. Includes the large items of equipment found in food processing plants, mixers, cookers, slicers, and devices of all sorts, as well as equipment for large professional kitchens as may be required in professional kitchens, large restaurants, hotels and institutions. Sellers are manufacturers.

Frozen Dairy Desserts

Miscellaneous frozen Dairy dessert (and imitation dairy) products moved in refrigerated containers. Includes imitation dairy such as Tofu. Buyers are typically retail markets, and institutions (Alliance military, educational, large hotel/restaurant chains, etc) that do a lot of feeding. Sellers are food processing plants.

Special Instructions: Refrigerated Cargo

Fruit Juice Concentrate

A staple agricultural commodity, transported generally in container sized tanks but also available in pallets for smaller users. Sometimes a workable speculative cargo, especially high grade or exotic juices. Buyers are retailers, and institutions (Alliance military, educational, large hotel/restaurant chains, etc) that do a lot of feeding, and food processing plants. Fruit Juice Concentrate will usually be sterilized by irradiation, but will also be refrigerated to prevent chemical decomposition of the product.

Furs

A fairly good speculative cargo, especially if the product is exotic. Furs are usually bought from farms or wholesalers- don't waste time tracking down individual trappers unless they have something truly exotic to offer. Buyers are clothing manufacturers, furriers, and fur dealers, especially where the weather is cold and the population reasonably wealthy. Fur, being a natural product, takes a good eye to determine the quality. If you go into the fur trade, have someone along who knows his furs.

Special Instructions: Avoid environmental extremes, keep packaging sealed.

Gambling and Gaming Equipment

Largish devices, frequently electronic but not necessarily so, designed for commercial level gambling and amusement. Non-gambling devices within this category includes such things as sports simulators. Makes for an unusual speculative cargo from the trader with real chutzpah. Typical buyers are hotels, casinos, and entertainment centers. More urbanized worlds may have retailers dealing in this equipment. Sources are manufacturers, which are uncommon.

Games, Toys, and Children's Vehicles

A noteworthy speculative cargo. Traders can get quite wealthy with this one, if they successfully predict in advance what the little tykes want most. Sellers are manufacturers. Buyers are retailers (which can get quite desperate for stock around certain gift giving occasions) and sometimes, but rarely, other organizations which provide for a lot of children, such as educational institutions or humanitarian agencies.

General Clothing

Despite the apparent universal nature of the product, the trader who engages in speculative trade with this common commodity is advised to be knowledgeable and careful. Styles and preferences change capaciously, and if the seller is offering too low a price, it could be because the product isn't very marketable. Sellers tend to be manufacturers and wholesalers. Buyers are almost always retailers. Quality and price vary considerably, the high end of general clothing, while only a fraction of the demand, can bring large profits.

General Livestock

Livestock is often transported in embryo form, but this requires female animals on the other end to bear the embryos to term. When new herds are being established, or old ones enlarged, livestock have to be shipped as, well, live stock. These animals include cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs. Livestock is not shipped over interplanetary distances just for slaughter. Livestock are usually shipped young, when possible, primarily because the young animals take up less room.

Special Instructions: Live Cargo.

General Parcels

General Parcels are the every day packages sent by individuals and businesses to other individuals and businesses, too small to be shipped individually. They may be documents, gifts, proposals, records, "care packages" whatever - the shipper usually doesn't get to know, anyway. Parcels are gathered together and put into a common pallet for shipping to the destination. There are several different policies out there pertaining to parcels, and players may not always be able to move them. Core planets insist that only Alliance courier ships carry

the general parcel trade. Border and Rim worlds grant a civilian company a charter to carry the parcels along a certain route - this may be hotly contested, and the local government will look at cost, speed and reliability as the key factors in granting a charter. Many Rim worlds will just send their parcels on "next available ship", as long as it meets speed and reliability criteria, and agrees to the standard rate structure for that route. Finally, some routes are covered by multiple competing parcel carriers.

General Service Autonomous Robotic Devices

Also includes parts. Self propelled, internally powered computerized devices of general service use, including domestic robots, utility robots, yard and house care robots, inter-office transport robots, etc. More universal in scope than the other robot categories, these are good for the speculative trader. Buyers are usually organizations and dealers. Sellers are manufacturers.

Geophysical survey and mapping equipment

Sensor and survey equipment designed to image and survey terrain. Buyers will be organizations devoted to exploration, or the Alliance itself, especially the Alliance military. Demand is somewhat more skewed to the frontier worlds than other products. Occasionally, buyers will ask that delivery of certain instruments include delivery to their final deployed locations.

Gymnasium, Exercise, and Playground Equipment

Largish fixed devices for health and amusement. Supplied by manufacturers, and bought by organizations of various kinds and sometimes retailers. Much of this class is sold on a special order only basis, and manufacturers are appreciative of traders who bring back orders for them.

Hair Care Products and treatments

In use everywhere, but the market is fickle and brand loyalty undependable. The speculative trader is advised to read the fashion magazines and be alert for trends. Purchased by retailers, and sold by manufacturers.

Special Instructions: many articles will burst if exposed to vacuum.

Handicrafts

Usually "low tech" style manufactures in some traditional ethnic style. People have a desire to "connect" with other places and cultures, so these items, when authentic and of high quality, can be excellent speculative cargos, although the demand will not be large. Some are designed to be useful, practical objects, simple tools and table ware being popular. Others are purely decorative. Frequently, they are manufactured by individuals or very small companies, so obtaining them can be time consuming. Sometimes, producers will be represented by a dealer, or a co-op. Buyers are generally retailers. Loads can easily be broken down into portions of pallets.

Hardwood Lumber

Wood is shipped as interstellar freight only as a luxury and finish product. Structural lumber typically isn't worth the effort. High quality lumber is used in the furniture and cabinet industries, as veneer paneling, in the manufacture of house wares, and other industries. It will generally not be retailed, but there are exceptions. It is sold mostly to developers and factories, and purchased from wholesalers or directly from forestry companies. Woods of this kind, at least from the Earth species people know about, are high quality hardwoods such as Oak, Walnut, Cherry, and tropical hardwoods such as Mahogany and Ironwood. High quality wood can work as a speculative cargo.

Special Instructions: Do not expose to vacuum or environmental extremes. Flammable.

Hardware

Bolts, nuts, screws, clamps, basic parts and small tools, and other simple metal or synthetic units, an industrial basic that holds civilization together. Universal need makes for a good speculative cargo. Expendable nature of much hardware means return trips. Suppliers are manufacturers and wholesalers. Buyers are retailers, or corporations/agencies such as developers and the Alliance military and real estate management firms, with a lot of property to take care of. Buyers can also be factories that use hardware in their manufactures.

Hazardous Environment Clothing

Garments made for survival in extremely unsafe places. Includes pressure suits, fireproof suits, deep sea diving suits, and chemical protective suits. Selling pressure suits is a lot tougher than some traders might think, but with a little reflection the reason is obvious: of all the possible cargos, this is one just about every spaceship captain knows well. As a result, the competition can be fierce.

Heavy Weapons

Including such things as missile launchers and artillery, these are large pieces of firepower generally possessed only by the Alliance military. Civilian shippers will often be hired to move them, though, either from the manufacturer to the receiving Alliance military unit or from one Alliance military depot to another. In any event, the shipper is usually chosen with care. In certain situations, Alliance military passengers may accompany a cargo of weapons. Heavy weapons may either be palletized or shipped as vehicle cargos- container equivalents. When the latter is the case, this represents larger pieces.

Horses

Somewhat more difficult to move than most livestock, as Horses are of much higher individual value and require greater care. Some livestock including horses can be moved as frozen embryos. That is a different cargo type. This requires two things, though: mature female livestock on the far end that can bring the embryos to term, and the time to wait. Often, especially when a herd is being established or expanded, these aren't available. Horses need to be around adult horses when growing up (to learn how to be horses) and so are not moved as young. Horses must be cared for by grooms during the voyage. Experienced shippers will send pregnant mares when possible, thus moving two horses at once. Horses are obtained from Horse farms, and are sold to dealers, horse farms, farms, and organizations that desire them, as well as private individuals. *Special Instructions: Very challenging cargo, see notes above.*

Human Organs/Cybernetics

A great many human parts can be replaced

by artificial version or with donor/harvested organs. This category includes both prosthetic such as artificial legs, and internal replacement organs such as hearts, bones, and kidneys. Suppliers are very specialized manufacturers, donor organizations and harvesters, and buyers are organizations with large hospitals.

Industrial Acids

Sulfuric Acid, Sulphonic Acid, Hydrofluoric Acid, Phosphoric Acid and other chemicals. Despite the fact that actual accidents are rare, there is something about the shipment of large containers of Acid that makes the typical ship owner shudder. Acids are shipped in large, ceramic lined tanks. They are acquired from chemical plants, and delivered to a variety of industries. These same statistics work for Industrial Solvents, and the same warnings apply as well.

Industrial Gasses

Used in welding and in a variety of Industrial processes, Inert Gasses, which include Argon, Helium, and others, are transported in liquid form in tanks. Leaks in tanks become evident quickly as frost builds up around the leak. Rupture of a tank is extremely dangerous. Sellers are manufacturers, buyers are factories, and retailers supporting small factories and construction or repair operations.

Industrial Process Robotics

Also includes parts. Robotic devices that may be self propelled, but are generally not internally powered. These robots are typically installed in a factory, but may be located in other places such as vehicle service centers. Buyers are typically the organizations and corporations that will use them. Sellers are manufacturers.

Insulating Foam/Structural Foam

These materials are transported and stored in liquid state, under pressure. On contact with air they quickly form a rigid foam. They are similar in most properties, except that insulating foam is optimized for its resistance to the passage of heat, and structural foam for great strength. Developers and some retailers are the main buyers, *Special Instructions, Liquid Cargo. Leakage from ruptured tanks can rapidly fill*

compartments.

Irradiation Devices

Used primarily in food processing, medicine, and science for sterilization, and in some industries for quality control. Bought from manufacturers, and sold to specialized industries, and institutions with scientific and medical functions. Also used by companies that prepare shipments for export. Fairly specialized equipment, but crops up in all sorts of places so it's got a pretty strong market.

Special Instructions: Delicate Cargo

Jewelry

Ranks up there with gems in terms of value per unit weight/volume, in fact, more so. A Jewelry tray is mostly armor and packing material and 50 trays will stack onto a pallet. Single trays are generally traded, and when moved, they are often not even in the cargo area. Traders will keep them in a ship's vault, or among personal possessions, or in another special place. If a trader is being paid to move jewelry as freight, the owner will usually be very interested in the security procedures and overall reputation, and will take steps to make certain that nothing goes missing.

Laser systems

Not weapons! (Lasers as weapons should be treated as "Heavy Weapons") Lasers are tools with myriads of functions from power transmission to communications to sensing to industrial work. They are used so widely that basic laser devices are standardized commodities. Buyers are retailers and many organizations, including industries, Alliance and private agencies that make use of laser tools and devices. Communications utility companies buy many types of laser equipment. Sellers are distributors and manufacturers.

Special Instructions: Delicate cargo. Keep shielded. Lasers can be damaged by exposure to high energy radiation.

Lead stock

Widely used in industry, for shielding and other purposes exploiting the properties of this very dense, soft metal. Some is used in building because it easy to form into shapes in the field and is very corrosion resistant. Provided by smelters and dealers, and

shipped to factories and developers.

Leather, Fur, and Hide Apparel

On the average, of higher value than general clothing, and transported in lower quantities. In addition to the details as noted in with General Clothing, note that the sources here tend to be more specialized, and the demand is affected by weather and environmental conditions. This cargo also makes a better speculative cargo, especially when made from materials of novel origin.

Lingerie, Loungewear and Nightwear

A highly specialized line of clothing, generally available in smaller amounts, being of higher value per unit volume, but finding lower demand. Unlike other forms of clothing, this will never be of interest to organizations and institutions, the only buyers are retailers. Sources are specialized manufacturers.

Live Plants

Plants are easy to transport as seeds, and modern genetic science can shorten the maturation times of some kinds of crop plants, but sometimes, farmers want to push the schedule up a few years, especially when establishing things like orchards and vineyards. Ornamental plants, too, cannot wait, and sometimes new genetically engineered plants need to be shipped whole and live for planting. Then, there are those plants that don't grow well from seeds. These are among the circumstances that will lead to the shipping of live plants, in special nursery containers designed to maintain them alive during a journey. It's not easy getting a plant to hibernate. Deciduous trees do it, but plants that don't naturally possess the technique just don't take well to it. A Plant nursery container can't just be dropped into a hold, it needs a modest connection to a cargo ship's power supply. Routine maintenance from a trained technician will keep a plant nursery container going indefinitely- limited, of course, by the size the plants will obtain. Sometimes, the whole plant nursery container itself will be the object of desire, at space and orbital habitats requiring small hydroponics gardens. It's not unheard of for large cargo ships to keep one container on as a permanent fixture. The plants themselves can range in value. It is possible for a

container of old, hand raised ornamental Bonsai trees to be the most valuable cargo on a ship. Suppliers are some farms, and plant nurseries- very rare ones used to preparing plants for space flight. Suppliers may also include botanical research stations. Buyers are nurseries, farms, agricultural research stations, and other organizations desiring plants. Some traders have been known to keep a number of containers with rare ornamental plants, selling individual plants to buyers from the containers, and sometimes giving them as gifts.

Livestock Embryos

This is a common way of sending livestock to a world that already has females in sufficient numbers. It is used not so much when establishing a herd or expanding a herd, but when improving a herd. Suppliers will be specialized dealers, buyers will be farms and dealers.

Special Instructions: Refrigerated Cargo

LTA Aircraft

Lighter than air aircraft or "Zeps" as they are known are disassembled for transport. The gas cells are deflated, the skeleton collapsed, and the engine, steering, and gondola sections packed. A typical LTA aircraft, packed for shipping, is 3 containers, but they vary between 2 and 6 containers. Suppliers are manufacturers, purchasers are air shipping companies, the Alliance military, and other organizations using them. Not a typical or effective speculative cargo. Although it is a vehicular cargo, LTA's cannot be driven in and out of holds and are quite difficult to handle.

Lubricants

Petroleum and non-petroleum based compounds that make things slippery. Some more advanced lubricants are near-frictionless and work with extremely small amounts, therefore, extreme care should be taken if packaging leaks. Lubricants are sold to retailers and industries, and organizations with a lot of machinery and/or vehicles. Suppliers are manufacturers.

Special Instructions: Cleanup is a real hassle.

Luggage

This is a standard in the "speculative cargo" trade, as it's universally used and very

portable- heck, it's made to be portable. Buyers are generally retailers, but other organizations buy the stuff from time to time, such as corporations providing people with company attaché cases with logos. The Alliance military buys lots of specialized packs, holders, and cases that fall into the broad luggage category. Sellers are manufacturers. As with clothing, fashions and styles change, and the speculative trader should be alert to shifts in the market, and the latest innovations of the market.

Magnesium stock

Includes Magnesium alloys. Light weight and used in many applications, Magnesium is also well known as an element which, for a metal, is disturbingly flammable. There are only two things to do with a magnesium fire, remove it from any source of oxygen (under water won't do the trick, it will keep burning) or jettison it. Don't let magnesium catch fire. Magnesium is sold to industries, and bought from refineries.

Meat/Meat, Frozen

A popular item, but the speculative trader is advised to consider the tastes and cuisine styles of his intended market. Sources are wholesalers, meat packing plants, and farm coops. Buyers are generally retailers, or other organizations that do a lot of feeding, such as hotels and the Alliance military, or food processing plants that use meat as an ingredient. As with many agricultural goods, local officials might insist on the right to inspect and certify cargos for healthfulness. Unfrozen meat will be smoked, dried, preserved, or carefully aged. (The cleverest of traders will arrange voyages so their cargo of beef arrives aged to perfection). Unfrozen meat is usually of higher quality, but it requires refrigeration nonetheless, and is harder to move.

Special Instructions: Refrigerated Cargo.

Medical and scientific instruments

Instruments made to produce precise, controllable effects or take precise measurements. Scientific instruments are often custom made. In either case, these are relatively rare and valuable shipments. Buyers will be organizations with a scientific or medical purpose. Suppliers will be specialized manufacturers.

Special Instructions: Delicate Cargo

Medical Devices

Includes surgical and veterinary instruments, hypodermics, syringes, catheters, ophthalmologic instruments, resuscitation and breathing apparatuses, mechano-therapy equipment, and pre-packaged medical kits such as first aid kits. Sources are manufacturers. Buyers are retailers, hospitals, and organizations with extensive medical functions.

Medical Diagnostic Imaging Systems

Largish contraptions designed to provide in depth information about the workings of a living body. Not really useful for a speculative cargo. Like many very specialized pieces of machinery, this will be ordered by buyers as needed. Buyers are hospitals and other organizations with major medical capabilities. Suppliers are manufacturers. Also as with other very specialized products, the manufacturers do appreciate it when traders act as salesmen and field reps and bring in orders. A trader should have a good knowledge of the equipment to do this.

Special Instructions: Delicate Cargo

Medical/Scientific Sterile Expendables

Includes bandages, swabs, sample vials, gloves, and other such materials designed to be disposed of after a single use. Sources are manufacturers. Buyers are retailers, hospitals, universities, and organizations with extensive medical and/or scientific functions.

Metal Working Machinery

Equipment for processing metal, including rollers, stamps, drills, forges, etc. As with many highly specialized types of equipment, generally ordered, and a poor speculative cargo. Manufacturers appreciate any help the trader provides in rounding up orders, though.

Metal or Synthetic working tools, dies, etc./Industrial Molds

Buyers of either cargo type are factories, sellers are factories that make stuff for factories. As such, this is almost never suitable for speculative cargo- it's usually something ordered for a specific need or plan. Metal working tool manufacturers,

however, will frequently look to small shippers to augment sales by aggressively seeking orders as they make their rounds

Memory media, unrecorded

Black, unrecorded data discs, typically. Demand will be from companies and organizations that buy them in bulk and then record onto them, as well as retailers, and many organizations. Supply will be from specialized manufacturers.

Memory media, pre-recorded

Same as unrecorded memory media, but this time there is stuff recorded on it. This can be a very valuable speculative cargo if the trader can predict accurately just what kind of stuff the general public will want to buy. Typically, it is entertainment programming, but simply data that is best left off the open cortex such as retail software. Buyers of this product are retailers, and Suppliers are recording facilities. Pre-recorded memory media typically contains security features to prevent unauthorized copying. Doing so is illegal and incurs the wrath of the entertainment industry.

Meters and Sensors

Includes magnetic and electric meters, gas and liquid flow meters, scales, counting devices, speed indicators, etc. Not an easy speculative cargo, as demand, although broad, is specialized. Sources are manufacturers, buyers will be industries (sensors used in a wide variety of automated process controls, as well as being incorporated in many devices), utility companies, Alliance military organizations (which have frequent need of sensors of specialized military purpose) scientific organizations, environmentally oriented organizations, and retailers.

Millwork, Marquetry, and Carvings

Ornamentation for architectural work, furniture, and other purposes. Often made of wood, but can include synthetics, resins, lacquers, and natural materials of many sorts including shells, bone, etc. Like many products whose value is derived from its esthetic qualities, the trader can use this as a successful speculative cargo but should first be very familiar with the product. Having contacts who are architects and developers, and knowing about the varieties of wood, or

the history of oriental lacquer ware can help. There is also a definite market for items of exotic and alien origin which a good trader can tap. Sellers will be manufacturers, and these can range from large plants to independent artists and art co-ops. Buyers are developers, dealers, retailers, and manufacturers of furniture.

Special Instructions: Product can be ruined with exposure to vacuum or environmental extremes.

Mining Machinery

A Vehicular Cargo. Machines that dig and remove mineral from mines. Similar to many constriction machines, but optimized for digging, and for working in very confined spaces. Suppliers are specialized manufacturers. Buyers are mining companies, and sometimes dealers.

Miscellaneous Office machines

Only a handful survived the computer age. Among them, the postage meter, or "franking device" as it is known in some parts, (which survived more because of computers than in spite of them) and the Photocopier, all of which are now integral with faxes and act as general purpose printers as well. Buyers are retailers and all sorts of organizations, institutions, and agencies. Sellers are distributors and manufacturers.

Miscellaneous Office Supplies

The computer and its peripherals have largely displaced a wide range of office hardware, but the need for office supplies hasn't faded. Buyers are retailers and all sorts of organizations, institutions, and agencies. Sellers are distributors and manufacturers.

Mobile Food Service Units, Non-Self Propelled

Typically, trailer mounted or pushcart mobile kitchens, barbecues, freezers, or grills or other such portable food preparation devices. Popular with small scale entrepreneurs in urban areas- the ubiquitous food carts. Occasionally these will be ordered by Alliance military, or foundations, corporations, and agencies that have to regularly feed a work force in a remote area. Suppliers are rare and specialized, and purchases also uncommon.

There is a gray area between these items and some of the more "heavy duty" residential outdoor cooking equipment. Sellers would be dealers and manufacturers.

Mobile Food Service Units, Self Propelled and trailer mounted

Exactly like non-self propelled units, but typically truck-mobile. Includes catering trucks and military field kitchens, and all vehicles of that ilk. This is a uncommon piece of equipment, with only a few suppliers, and only occasional purchases. *Special Instructions: Vehicular Cargo*

Motorcycles

Includes Motor Scooters and other 2 wheeled motorized vehicles. Generally shipped partly un-assembled in pallets. A good speculative cargo. Motorcycles are bought by dealers and organizations (such as Alliance military and police) that maintain fleets of motorcycles. Sources are manufacturers.

Munitions

Ammunition and Alliance military expendable ordnance items other small arms rounds. Lots of big things that explode are filed here, and this is not a cargo that makes a spaceship captain sleep soundly. Civilian shippers will often be hired to move them, though, either from the manufacturer to the receiving Alliance military unit or from one Alliance military depot to another. In any event, the shipper is usually chosen with care. In certain situations, Alliance military passengers may accompany a cargo of munitions.

Special Instructions: Yes, lots of Special Instructions. Follow all of them.

Museum Artifacts

On rare occasion, a museum will see fit to loan an exhibit to another museum, or send it permanently, or send it on a "tour" of several museums. Or, a collector in the field will assemble artifacts for delivery to a museum. Under these circumstances, the museum will contract with a courier to move the cargo. It is available as speculations cargo only under the most bizarre of circumstances - but it has happened. When shipping, the museums usually pay well, but they are notoriously fussy about the ships they choose. The ship must have an excellent

reputation, good security and safety, and insurance. Originator of the cargo will generally be a museum or similar institution, or it may be a private collector or field team of a museum or foundation. Destination will be a museum, or sometimes another facility being used for a temporary exhibit.

Special Instructions: Rare and Delicate Cargo

Musical Instruments

Covers a wide range of devices. This is a fairly rare cargo- in small amounts, the instruments will be shipped via the "general parcel" class. Generally, the only times someone will buy in the pallet load is when they intend to retail, or are equipping a band, or are acquiring large instruments such as Pianos. Sellers will be dealers and the rare, select manufacturers. Buyers are typically dealers, or some particular organizations.

Special Instructions: Wood instruments must avoid all environmental extremes, exposure to vacuum can destroy them.

Delicate Cargo

Natural Gums

Includes materials such as balata, gutta-percha, gum-Arabica, and chicle. Natural botanical derived bulk materials used in industry. Like many industrial raw materials, buyers will often want regular dependable deliveries, making this a difficult commodity for the small trader. Sources are usually plantations, and buyers are manufacturers.

Special Instructions- Liquid Cargo.

Exposure to air ruins the product. Keep sealed.

Non Perishable Prepared Foods

Standard output of food processing plants, non perishable goods are in high demand everywhere and as such make a good speculative cargo even if the income per unit volume will not be high.

Special Instructions; Non perishable foods are usually placed in airtight packaging, and then in pallets or containers. If the pallet or container is exposed to vacuum and is breached, the vacuum will usually make the packages burst, often with messy results.

Non-powered Hand Tools

Various work implements that have basic, non powered functions, such as shovels, screwdrivers, socket wrenches and hammers. A staple commodity with wider demand than power tools, even if not as profitable. The market is fairly universal, and if a trader can offer good prices, these make a good speculative cargo. Sellers are manufacturers and wholesalers. Buyers are retailers, sometimes other dealers, and sometimes developers, or agencies that need to keep a lot of workmen supplied.

Novelties, Collectibles, Souvenirs, And Curios

Trinkets, tchotchkes, gift items, and other such items, typically small, whose function is generally to sit on a shelf and announce their existence. Frequently, such items are connected to a place, event, or company and are very specific. One simply will not find much market for a pallet of Snow-globes away from the place represented inside the Snow-globe. Specific items make poor speculative cargo, while non-specific items in this class are effective if the trader is persuasive. People certainly buy them, but this is the least useful cargo of them all and can be a tricky one to find buyers for. Of course, if the trader times things right, and arrives with a load of commemorative gift items in time to catch a brief wave of demand, a lot of money can be made. These things are sold to retailers, and organizations that will sell or often give them away, and obtained from a variety of manufacturers, usually opportunistic small businesses. This class isn't all junk- some little trinkets can be made from crystal, porcelain, or other high value materials. Some become collector's items.

Nuclear Fuel Elements

This also includes nuclear materials for medical and scientific purposes. Nuclear Elements come packed in their heavily armored pallets and the wise trader makes sure they stay there. Transport of Nuclear Fuel Elements may require special inspections, permits, licenses, etc, and when arriving at a port, local authorities usually like to be told if you have a hold full of the stuff. Rarely a speculative cargo, most frequently obtained from specialized manufacturers, and transported to power

agencies, energy producers, labs, and hospitals. Labs and Hospitals will never take more than 1 pallet at a time, but often a special agency will handle all the material being used in one area and concentrate the demand. People looking to transport this stuff will look hard at a freighter's reputation, abilities, and insurance. *Special Instructions: Keep cargo in packaging at all times. Cargo is radioactive. Some authorities will require special permits or notification*

Nuts

A good hefty food crop, more valuable by weight and volume than grain, with good storage and handling characteristics. Nuts are sold to food marketers or food processing companies, and in lesser amounts to the same buyers as produce and are bought from wholesalers or more directly, nut farms (not the same nut farm where you recruit crew members).

Paint

Paint and Coatings used in industry, in construction, and in the home. Although manufactured and sold in bulk, paint is transported and stored in cans, 50 of which stack on a Pallet, to prevent settling or curing of the product. Because it is not in large tanks, it is not subject to some of the problems associated with typical liquid cargos. However, many paints emit dangerous fumes, or are flammable, so a massive spill is still a serious problem. Paints are bought by retailers and a wide variety of organizations, including developers. *Special Instructions: Toxic, difficult to clean up.*

Passenger Cars

These are the everyday, privately owned vehicles used by millions for their daily transport needs. Their near-universal use and regular demand makes them a workable speculative cargo. Next to a home, this is the largest thing the average person owns, so passenger cars make up a large portion of cargo transport. Buyers are retailers, or organizations maintaining fleets of cars. Sellers are dealers and manufacturers.

Paydirt

This is the name given to super-rich soil,

which has been overstocked with worms and beneficial nematodes and nitrogen fixers and all the other crawlly little things that actually make plants prosper. Basically it's dirt, but dirt of such high value that the Alliance and various farm co-ops will often subsidize its shipment, looking at it as an investment. It is usually only needed on newer rim worlds where agriculture is being expanded. The Paydirt is actually shipped chilled, for the benefit of all those living things in it - wouldn't want them to die in transit, then you'd really have just dirt. *Special Instructions: Refrigerated Cargo. Technically, Live cargo.*

Pesticides and Vermicides

Chemicals designed to bring about the abrupt demise of insects and other small vermin. Not quite the toxic evil of centuries past, the modern pesticide is usually biological in origin, and very narrowly focused. Even so, the amounts moved in pallets and tanks (containers) make it very dangerous if a container were to rupture. Pesticides are bought by farms, retailers serving farms, and also by organizations fighting mass insect infestations. They are sold by manufacturers. (Vermicides are chemicals designed to kill small pest animals, pesticides primarily target insects and similar tiny critters) *Special Instructions; Liquid Cargo, Toxic.*

Pharmaceutical Plants

Plants with real or traditionally supposed health effects, but excluding drugs and poisons, this class includes Ginseng, Ginger, Anise, and Sassafras root, Licorice, as well as an assortment of oriental mushrooms. Buyers are retailers, food processors (they are often used as additives and flavorings) , distillers, and brewers. These plants are usually shipped in raw, unprocessed form. Sellers are Farms and Farm Co-ops, and some dealers. Demand tends to be very culturally dependent, and subject to fads. The speculative trader who stays on top of this can bring in a nice bit of change, but the market is never big. *Special Instructions: cargo is generally ruined if exposed to vacuum or extreme environments.*

Pickles/Jams, Jellies, and Fruit Preserves

Pickles in this designation are of the Eastern European concept- that is, any pickled vegetables, not just cucumbers. Pickles are weighty, but tend to have a decent value to volume ratio for a food product, and can be stored nearly indefinitely. Universal (well, fairly universal) demand plus a wide variety makes pickles a workable speculative cargo. Jams, Jellies and fruit preserves tend to have a higher value and more variety, but are otherwise a very similar cargo. In both cases, the trader should think about the cultural factor in the market. Both products are obtained from food processing companies, and sometimes (especially on the high end of the product lines) individual farms and farm co-ops. Buyers are retailers, and organizations that buy wholesale food.

Police Equipment

This category includes equipment and tools, other than vehicles, unique to security, law enforcement, and police work to include restraint devices and non-lethal weapons, riot control gear, batons, and other equipment. Buyers will almost always be security services, public and private, and they will generally order their supplies. Suppliers will be specialized manufacturers. Security services are well known amongst small traders as good places in which to acquire a few friends, and the astute trader knows that if he is delivering this class of cargo, it gets highest priority, including personal delivery to the buyer (never pass up such an opportunity). Sometimes, transporting this class of equipment requires a license.

Portable Drilling Rig/Pile Drivers

Mobile Drilling Rigs are hauled out to worlds where prospectors need deep samples, or where water must be obtained from the depths. This is a vehicle cargo, and consists of a prime mover/support vehicle and a large towed rig trailer. They will be in demand in areas where water is in need, and is underground, or where they are needed to support mining operations, otherwise they are brought in on an as need basis by prospectors. Pile drivers are essentially giant hammers designed to knock big solid poles into the ground to stabilize constructions. They are similar, from the cargo master's point of view. Sources of both are specialized manufacturers. Pile drivers are sold to

developers, drill rigs to prospectors, drilling companies, mining companies, and occasionally farms.

Special Instructions: Vehicle Cargo

Power Cable

Insulated cable used for the transmission of power. Used by developers, utility companies, manufacturers, and other organizations that use power cable. Some is sold to retailers.

Power Driven Hand Tools

All kinds of small devices real men everywhere salivate over. The market is fairly universal, and if a trader can offer good prices, these make a good speculative cargo. Sellers are manufacturers and wholesalers. Buyers are retailers, sometimes other dealers, and sometimes developers, or agencies that need to keep a lot of workmen supplied.

Precious metals:

Silver/Platinum/Gold

The traditional precious metals are still very much in demand for a variety of purposes. Buyers include precious metals dealers, Manufacturers who consume precious metals in their processes, currency mints, precious metals dealers, jewelers and others. Sellers are smelters and precious metals dealers. As in most metals, ore is almost never shipped: the metal is refined into blocks or ingots before shipping.

Prefabricated Collapsible Structures

Generally metal or synthetic (or mixed) structures that unfold to form the shells of buildings only, without interior partitioning, finishes, or utilities. Widely used to erect quick dwellings, and even more commonly to set up warehouses, storage facilities, barns, garages, workshops, and other structures that do not need much interior comfort.

Prefabricated Modular Buildings

This is an oddity- as border and rim worlds became more independent, the demand for prefabricated modular buildings from the core went down, not up. They are still in limited demand, however. Prefabricated Modular Buildings are fully equipped buildings with utilities already built in (but they are unfurnished) ready for immediate

occupancy and use. Some are residences, some are offices, others are dedicated workspaces of all kinds. Buyers are dealers and organizations of all sorts. Sellers are manufacturers.

Preservative and Fire retardant Chemicals

Chemicals designed to treat materials, typically wood or organic textiles, so as to render them less vulnerable to rot, mold, fire, etc. Sellers will be manufacturers, particularly chemical plants. Buyers will be companies that need to treat products to make them more resistant to something. This is common among textile manufacturers, and building supply firms. *Special Instructions: Liquid Cargo. Environmental Contaminant*

Primary Plastic Resins

This class includes manufacture of plastics in primary forms, such as polymers of ethylene, of polypropylene or of other olefins, of styrene, of vinyl chloride or other halogenated olefins, of vinyl acetate or of other vinyl esters, other vinyl polymers; polyacetals, polycarbonates, alkyd resins, polyallyl esters and other polyesters; etc. etc. All are moved in liquid form in large tanks. All are produced by chemical plants and are bought mostly by manufacturers, although some developers have equipment that can make direct use of plastic resins. As a basic industrial material it is usually left to the bigger haulers.

Printed Materials

Books and magazines are considered quaint on core worlds, but still in demand somewhat on border and rim worlds. Printed Materials are produced by Publishers, and are sold by Publishers and Wholesalers to Retailers, or agencies and institutions, especially educational institutions and libraries.

Private Household Goods

This represents private property being shipped, often in conjunction with the relocation and resettlement of the owner (who may or may not also be traveling as a passenger) . As such it is never a speculative cargo. The trader will simply be hired to move it from place to place. Individuals rarely contact ships directly. These

shipments are generally arranged through transport services, freight forwarders, agencies, and organizations.

Special Instructions: Often Packed By Amateurs. Check packaging, just to be sure.

Produce, General

Freshness is a virtue with produce, and many shippers will use the smaller ships for their runs, as they don't want the goods hanging around waiting for the big carrier to show up. A farm will typically provide containers of assorted produce. Buyers are typically produce markets, and institutions (Alliance military, educational, large hotel/restaurant chains, etc) that do a lot of feeding, and food processing plants. Containers will be controlled environment containers, maintaining an atmosphere inside that retards spoilage. Or, they will be flash frozen. Frozen goods need to be shipped in refrigerated hold, or in refrigerated containers.

Special Instructions: Rough handling can damage produce

PseudoLiquids

This bizarre class of chemicals are created from molecules that are straight and rigid, do not bond laterally but bond well longitudinally, and orient themselves in the same direction. The result is a substance that has the properties of a solid along one axis and those of liquids along parallel axis. Used in a number of industrial applications, to make variable-viscosity seals, and other chemical wonders. Purchased from chemical plants and sold to manufacturers.

Special Instructions: Leaked Pseudo liquids can do strange things. One of the odder ones, in zero gravity, is to flow evenly and quickly over all surfaces save those they "don't like" and then form a rigid shell. Another is to form large hollow spheres.

Pumps and Compressors

Rather heavy pieces of equipment designed to move fluids, either liquid or gas. Heavy duty pumps are at the heart of water supply systems in every civilized place. These devices are usually specific in design so they make poor speculative cargos. There are a steady flow of orders from customers, who include agencies and corporations, especially industries and utilities, to suppliers, who are manufacturers. Pumps

and compressors are very variable in size. They are ordered for a specific project, and when one has to be replaced, the replacement unit is bound to be a high priority cargo. Pumps and compressors are hefty chunks of metal (but hollow and thus low in density).

Pyrotechnics

Used in the Alliance military, by others in limited amounts for emergency signaling, and in festival displays. Sellers will be very rare Pyrotechnics factories. Buyers will be retailers only where public possession is legal, otherwise Alliance agencies, and organizations or companies sponsoring festive displays, or other organizations or companies having a need. Festival Pyrotechnics are a rare but interesting speculative cargo- the fact that they are available at all raises the interest of potential buyers, especially at times of year when such displays would be especially appropriate. *Special Instructions: Handle with extreme care, avoid excess heat and/or oxygen at all costs.*

Rail transport systems

A large and awkward cargo, not the sort of thing that's of any use to the speculator, but one where a knowledgeable trader, as go between for manufacturers and buyers, can reap a reasonable profit. Locomotives presuppose a rail system, or at least an intent to start one, on a planet, and no locomotives or other rail equipment will be in demand if there is not. When locomotives and other rail cars are ordered, the game master should select which types. Urban light systems, trolleys, and urban transit cars (all of which provide their own motive power) will only be requested where there are substantial cities. Locomotives and rolling stock may be conventional, or of the Mag-Lev or airfilm type depending on the Gamemaster's designs. Note that with Mag-Lev's and Airfilms, the locomotive is essentially the same weight and size as a passenger car, although it contains additional control equipment. Conventional rail systems use a very heavy locomotive. Freight cars are built as either flatbeds, or with some sort of cargo container.

Rare Earths

Ingots of the less common metal elements,

many of which have broad applications in manufacturing, especially the higher tech industries. This may include Ytterbium and the other "iums" of the "rarely consulted" portion of the periodic table. You know. Down there in the bottom, but not as far down as the radioactives, where it all starts getting interesting again. Buyers are manufacturers, sellers are dealers and refineries. Sources should be placed by the game master, as production of the rare earths is, well, rare.

Reaction fuel

A cargo which worries many shippers, which is surprising in that it is regularly carried by spaceships. Not the placid hydrogen of general use, but much more energetic chemical fuel designed for application where high specific impulse from a low fuel mass is needed. Reaction fuel is purchased by companies that service spacecraft, or owners of fleets, and supplied by special plants. It is transported in tanks.

Special Instructions: Liquid Cargo. Hazardous.

Recreational Vehicles, Wheeled/Recreational Vehicles, Hover

These are vehicles that provide mobile living space, and include those built without recreational intent. It differs from the pre-fab category in that these mobile living spaces are self propelled. This is a relatively rare cargo. Sources are Manufacturers. Buyers are dealers, and sometimes organizations that have a need to maintain highly mobile living space. Scientific organizations are common. Vehicular cargo

Refrigerants

Chemicals used in cooling systems. Produced by Chemical plants and purchased by retailers, and organizations owning cooling systems of significant size (industrial plants, food processing plants and food storage warehouses, transport companies with refrigerated containers and facilities, housing complexes, etc). Although technically a "safe" chemical, Refrigerants vaporize so quickly on uncontrolled exposure to air or vacuum that the reaction is explosive. If refrigerant is splashed on a surface, the heat absorbed through vaporization of the refrigerant will rapidly

chill that surface. This can cause frost injuries.

Special Instructions: Liquid Cargo Vaporizes rapidly on contact with air or vacuum.

Repellants

Chemicals designed to be odious and repulsive to insects or specific animals, without actually being toxic. Insect repellants are commonplace, and on many worlds, special repellants are designed to keep insects and animals from intruding into areas where they are not wanted, like farms. Buyers are often farms or farm co-ops, or retailers. Suppliers are chemical manufacturers. When shipped by the tank full, repellants should be treated as toxic because of the sheer dosage such a load presents.

Special Instructions: Liquid Cargo, Toxic

Robotic Vehicles

Also includes parts. Robotic vehicles typically perform light duty cargo transport along simple routes, for example, between sites in a plant. Some operate as local postal carriers. Most can be tele-operated instead of being computer controlled. They are a vehicular cargo. Buyers are typically the organizations and corporations that will use them. Sellers are manufacturers.

Rope, Cordage and Twine

A basic product of near universal use. Pallets of rope, cordage and twine will be bought by retailers and all manner of organizations including businesses of many types.

Producers are manufacturers and retailers. This class covers a wide range from simple organic twines to very advanced synthetic cordage with great strength. Also covers Bungee cords and similar straps, ties, and lines. Most buyers will not want "used" material. The trader who unreels cable to tie down cargo will have a hard time passing it off as new again. Some largish ropes are sold in multiple pallet units.

Salvage

This cargo consists of machinery or equipment in various states of disrepair returned from a site of abandonment. Salvage from an abandoned spacecraft may be in quite good repair, salvage from a long underwater wreck may be corroded and

covered in sea life. The source of salvage is generally the company or organization that has recovered it. It may be shipped to specialized reclamation companies, or companies dealing in used equipment if still in good repair, or groups looking to cannibalize the salvage for spare parts. Note that if salvaged goods consist of undamaged cargo of another type, it should be considered to be of that type. Occasionally, salvage may be material beyond use or repair, but some organization will want it transported for some other purpose; historical or scientific.

Satellites

Complete unmanned orbital devices. Most commonly used for communications, but there are sensor satellites, defense satellites, navigational satellites, and others of various less common purposes. There are very few retailers, so satellites are typically sold by the manufacturer, and bought by the organizations that will use them. Buyers will often ask the shipper to place the satellites directly into their permanent orbits.

Seafood

Flash frozen at the source, a valuable food commodity. Good speculative value, if the local culture has an affinity towards seafood. Sources are fishing co-ops, processors, and distributors on worlds with a fishing (or aquaculture) industry. Buyers are retailers, and institutions (Alliance military, educational, large hotel/restaurant chains, etc) that do a lot of feeding, and food processing plants. Many buyers are quite particular about the type and quality of their seafood, especially some retailers and restaurants, and to serve this market the trader is advised to gain some knowledge about seafood.

Special Instructions: Refrigerated Cargo. Cargo will be destroyed rapidly if refrigeration is lost.

Seasonal and Holiday Decorations

Another one of those odd cargos which the astute speculative trader can convert into solid cash with good instincts and good timing. Sold to retailers, and sometimes to institutions, and bought from manufacturers. Be sure to get the season/holiday right, or you will be stuck with a cargo that is very hard to sell.

Secured Valuables

This class includes personal or business documents, archives, cash, private heirloom possessions, or other such items of extreme value necessitating special care and security. This will not be a speculative cargo for obvious reasons, and is generally transported in heavily armored and secure containers. The owner will be looking for a ship with a very good reputation, and speed, security, and insurance coverage. As in many high value cargo types, the owner will often demand a "chain of custody", that is, the shipper has them under personal care until delivered. The quantity is typically small and will be transported in document cases, 40 of which fit onto a standard pallet. Traders will often keep them in a ship's vault, or among personal possessions, or in another special place.

Sensitive Alliance Cargo

Sensitive cargo, when not moved on an Alliance courier, is shipped on the most trusted of ships, whenever possible on one contracted exclusively for Alliance work. Such cargo usually consists of documents and belongings being shipped from one governmental post to another. It is usually off limits to searches and inspections, and is sealed with an official closure of some sort that is difficult to open. Sometimes, an Alliance agent or an agent of the Parliament will accompany the cargo, usually openly as a courier. An independent shipper will only be approached if reliability is beyond doubt, loyalty is assured, (or can be assured through placement of an agent) and need is great. Such cargo will always travel from one official, secured facility to another. A courier who has a reputation as reliable for this job will often be called upon in the future. Handling of sensitive cargo can often put the trader in touch with people who will offer interesting side jobs. Generally, when an unusually large amount of cargo is being moved, it is considered very bad form to discuss it.

Signage

Generally, sophisticated displays. Simple affairs of painted wood, metal, synthetic, and other materials are typically locally produced. High tech signs are like very large display screens, with strong, vivid color for

visibility outdoors in daylight, from a distance. Even though the displays can be varied as needed, most display signage systems produced are custom manufactured for a specific customer. Like in many industries, signage manufacturers think highly of traders who bring them orders for this kind of custom work. Buyers are corporations and organizations of every sort, including the Alliance. On border worlds highway signs may be purchased by Alliance agencies or developers with contracts. Suppliers are specialized manufacturers.
Special Instructions: Delicate Cargo

Small Animals

Rabbits and other small animals are raised on certain worlds as manageable meat and/or fur sources. They are easier to ship than larger animals. Also, losses through transport attrition are not as costly as losses to larger livestock. Despite their popularity in some frontier areas, small mammals are not moved often. They are moved to establish new breeding groups or to improve old ones, but once a population is established it can be expanded rapidly. This can be a good speculative cargo if the trader can obtain a new, better line than what is standard on the frontier.

Special Instructions: Live cargo, needs atmosphere, gravity, care during voyage

Small Arms

Pistols, rifles, and weapons of similar size and scope. Local governments may insist that traders moving this cargo- and especially speculative traders- acquire special licenses and fill out all sorts of documentation to track the movement of weapons. Suppliers are manufacturers and dealers. Buyers are security organizations including the Alliance military, and where they are permitted, retailers.

Small Arms Ammunition

Rounds for small arms. Some cargos will be Alliance military, some civilian. Dealing with this cargo in either version sometimes requires special approvals. At the very least, local officials like to know when a load of ammunition is arriving at their location. Except in unusual circumstances the Alliance military, law enforcement and security forces use the bulk of smalls arms ammunition. Sellers are manufacturers, an

buyers will be Alliance military or security agencies, or retailers. Alternatively, ships may be hired to move ammunition from one Alliance military site to another.

Special Instructions: Avoid heat

Small utility vehicles

This class includes things like All Terrain Vehicles, Golf Carts, and other little utility vehicles. They are inexpensive, easy to transport, and helpful on frontier worlds. This broad class also includes very small hovercraft designed for amphibious work, small "over-snow" vehicles and other assorted pieces of machinery. Sources are manufacturers and dealers. Buyers are dealers, and organizations with a need for mobility, like Alliance military organizations, exploration oriented agencies, and the like. Oh, and Golf Resorts.

Small Watercraft, Powered/Unpowered.

Very small boats and watercraft, generally for recreational purposes. Some are powered, some are paddled, some are sailboats. Generally bought by dealers who will sell them to private individuals, and occasionally bought by owners of large vessels who will use them as lifeboats. Sellers are manufacturers.

Soap and Detergent

A fairly stable, general commodity. Sold to retailers, and to some organizations that do a lot of cleaning, such as industries. Bought from manufacturers. This does not represent soap and cleaners packaged for retail—rather, it is bulk supplies in cartons and drums that will be broken down and repackaged by the distributor. Consumer packaged goods are listed separately. Soap and detergent is available as a solid or a liquid, and the demand is split 50-50.

Special Instructions: 50% is a liquid cargo.

Solar Electric Panels

A standard source of energy, especially in place. As border world populations grow, more and more are exported to the frontier markers. Even after installation, they are vulnerable to damage, so there is a steady flow of new panels from the factories. Universal utility makes them a workable speculative cargo. Buy from Manufacturers, Sell to Retailers, Corporations, and Alliance.

Special Instructions: Fragile.

Space Habitat Modules

These items are component pieces of orbital habitats and space stations, as well as outposts on low gravity airless worlds. They are structurally similar to spaceships, in fact, they are almost identical to spaceship components, the chief difference being that they have no pulse drive. Without a pulse drive, it is necessary for a spaceship to haul them from point of manufacture to their final destination. As a typical cargo ship's life support systems are not designed to be extended to the attached modules, they cannot be used during the voyage unless special adaptations are made beforehand. Modules are of many types, including living, workspace, utility, research, hangar, storage, and even agricultural modules. 100 tons per module is typical.

Spacecraft/Alliance military Spacecraft

Spacecraft with interplanetary range are typically bought from the manufacturer and flown to the buyer, but spacecraft without such range will have to be shipped. This category includes small transfer vehicles, interface vehicles, orbital defense craft, and others. Alliance military Spacecraft will be shipped only from and to very specific places designated on a case by case basis by the gamemaster.

Spacecraft Parts

Component items specific to spacecraft and orbital habitats. In demand wherever spacecraft operate, and bought by very specialized retailers but generally directly by the organizations operating the spacecraft and/or habitats. Produced by manufacturers.

Special Decorative Lighting fixtures

Non-Standard fixtures generally designed and commissioned as custom projects incorporating exotic materials and high levels of workmanship. Buyers will be institutions, wealthy individuals, special businesses such as theatres or hotels, etc. As these items are not stocked, construction supply houses will not buy them. Not a good speculative item, but a trader may do well collecting orders for delivery on future runs. Shippers will seek transports with a good

reputation, and adequate insurance. Damaged Goods will be a mortal blow to reputation. Handle with care
Special Instructions: Delicate and very valuable

Special Prepared Food

Prepared Foods designed to satisfy particular nutrition, vitamin supplement, or dietary needs. Sold by specialized food processing manufacturers, bought mostly by retailers, occasionally by Alliance military, medical, or other organizations. Demand tends to fluctuate considerably.

Specialty Grains

Just a big, bulk commodity, so stay out of this one, right? Well, right, most of the time. You'll find, if you dig, that a number of buyers - restaurants, bakeries, brewers, gourmet food stores, will be interested in specialty grain products, especially types normally unavailable to them. It's rarely a high earner, but it can a good part of diverse product range and should not be overlooked, especially as it helps serve the food industry, where its always helpful to have good contacts.

Special Instructions: Make sure the cargo stays in sealed, vacuum packed plastic sacks. Avoid sparks. Free floating Grain Dust in air is explosive.

Specialized Autonomous Robotic Devices

Also includes parts. Self propelled autonomous computer and/or tele-operated devices of specialized function, including pipeline inspection and repair robots, explosives handling robots, and scientific robots. Buyers are typically organizations, agencies, and corporations. Sellers are manufacturers. These robots are typically too specialized to be effective speculative cargos.

Spices

Buyers are retailers, and institutions (Alliance military, educational, large hotel/restaurant chains, etc) that do a lot of feeding, and food processing plants. Sellers will be dealers, and sometimes farms or farm coops. Exotic spices can be an effective speculative cargo, as they have a high value to volume ration and demand tends to be strong on the more populous planets. Spice

availability will vary with recent harvests.
Special Instructions: In zero gravity, dust can be dangerous. Not only flammable, but an irritant if the concentrated dust of certain spices is inhaled.

Sporting Goods

Devices, tools, and specialized garb for sports, excluding things like weapons and power equipment. Class includes things like skis, basketballs, and tennis rackets. High end sports gear will be very valuables in terms of money per ton. Buyers are retailers, and sometimes organizations sponsoring athletics. Suppliers are manufacturers. Speculative traders should take time to learn the peculiarities of the market, as they will find their buyers to be, very often, fanatically knowledgeable.

Synthetic Blood Plasma

Less of a demand as surgical procedures have improved. Also, many hospital level facilities can now synthesize their own blood replacements on an as-needed basis, but synthetic blood plasma is easier and cheaper to mass produce, then sent to individual hospitals where it can be tailored to patients. Not an effective speculative cargo for obvious reasons.

Special Instructions: Avoid rough handling

Tea Prepared, packaged Tea

A Major sustainer of life throughout the 'verse. An adequate speculative cargo where demand is good, and demand is nearly universal. Shipments are frequently made in whole container amounts where quantities justify. Sellers are generally coffee plantations. Buyers are typically retail markets, wholesalers, food processing plants, and institutions (Alliance military, educational, large hotel/restaurant chains, etc) that do a lot of feeding.

Textile Related Machinery

Machines that spin, card, weave, sew, trim, cut, etc, etc, etc. Bought mostly by the clothing industry, and supplied by the industrial machinery factories. As with many highly specialized types of equipment, generally ordered, and a poor speculative cargo. Manufacturers appreciate any help the trader provides in rounding up orders, though. Small numbers of pallets represent parts or attachments or accessories.

Tires: Aviation Tires/Alliance military/Heavy Tires.

Where wheeled vehicles exist, there will be a steady flow of new rubber and synthetic rubber tires. Tires are shipped by the container load, from manufacturers. Buyers include vehicle factories and service centers, retailers, Alliance military organizations, transport companies (ground and air) and other organizations with large fleets of wheeled vehicles and/or wheeled aircraft they maintain themselves. Aviation and Alliance military tires are typically more specialized and more expensive. Tires for interface craft (a subcategory of aviation tires) are the most expensive of all.

Titanium stock

Includes alloys of Titanium. A basic metal with widespread industrial applications, titanium is rarer than the base metals and more valuable. It may be precious enough to work as a speculative cargo, since many industries that can use it will be making do with other materials in its absence. Suppliers are smelters and dealers. Buyers are factories, and sometimes developers.

Trucks, semi-trailer/Trucks, van

Standard wheeled heavy cargo transports. Semi-trailer consists of tractor/trailer combinations. Trailers are normally collapsed and stacked. The van truck does not have a detachable trailer section, and carries much less cargo (less than half a container) and is typically used as a local delivery truck, or as a tactical truck in law enforcement use. Buyers are dealers, and organizations that handle a lot of road transport. Sellers are manufacturers and dealers.

Underwater Utility Robots

These are tele-operated or autonomous robots designed to carry out work underwater. They are extremely valuable on planets with open water, and pointless everywhere else. Purchasers will be engineering firms, developers, Alliance military and transport agencies, research organizations, and other organizations needing to do work underwater as well as dealers. Vendors will be dealers and manufacturers. Can be a lucrative speculative cargo if needs can be

anticipated- such as if a colony is about to begin a project with underwater work required.

Special Instructions: Underwater Utility Robots contain a number of pressurized systems. Inspect each robot individually and make sure all pressurized systems are bled off prior to transport.

Vegetable Oils Liquid Cargo

Bulk vegetable oils are best left to the big carriers- they will be going from big producers to big users, and clockwork deliveries of massive cargos are expected. The small carrier, though, can find adequate profit in the high end of the market, moving smaller amounts of things like olive oil, various nut oils, and other more refined vegetable oils. Generally, the more exotic, the better. Buyers of bulk goods will be food processors and some retailers. Buyers of specialized oils will be food processors, retailers, restaurant chains, and institutions and organizations that prepare a lot of food. Bulk product will generally be moved in entire container tank loads, high end oils in pallets. Specialty oils can make an effective speculative cargo.

Special Instructions: Liquid Cargo

Vehicle Parts

The industry knows full well this is where the real money is- sell the vehicles, then for years later, less the parts. Vehicle parts are bought by retailers, and every organization that maintains its own vehicles. They are supplied by manufacturers.

Vitamins

In some areas, locally grown food will be capable of providing most human needs, but certain nutrients will be lacking. In other areas, people often want to supplement/alter their vitamin intake for health reasons with a cheap alternative to fancy core foodstuffs. Some vitamin intake is a result of culture, and some of health fad. Vitamins, therefore, tend to vary greatly in demand, with each locality having its own peculiar needs. Vitamins make a workable speculative cargo, except for those in the first category. These, buyers will wish to arrange long term, reliable supplies, and the priority is so high that the Alliance will at least pretend to oversee it. Small amounts of vitamins, as are frequently ordered, will be

moved in general parcel class. Buyers will be Retailers, and some organizations with health functions. Sellers will be specialized manufacturers.

Wall Coverings

These are made of plastic, thin laminates, fabric, felt, or any of a variety of materials. They range from the commonplace to the exotic, and include some with advanced capabilities such as the luminous types, fire suppressant types, anti-blast or shock types, or the flat high definition display types which can make a wall, effectively, a window to anywhere. There are even types with variable-adhesive surfaces, in which the adhesive property can be turned on and off with a touch. Wall coverings are primarily used by developers, and are also bought by retailers. They are sold by manufacturers.

Waxes and Polishes

Includes natural waxes and synthetic. Not exactly a major mover, but a useful cargo for the trader if only because of a "widely used, but generally overlooked" situation. Buyers include retailers, certain industries (candle makers, for one), and organizations that do a lot of waxing and polishing. Alliance military organizations are known as notorious consumers of wax.

Special Instructions. Avoid heat. You don't want a ruptured container and hot wax flowing all over the place.

Windows and Doors/Ornamental and Architectural castings, stampings, etc.

Sellers will be Manufacturers. Buyers will be developers, and large retailers specializing in building supplies. Windows and doors made for exotic environments, or the homes of the wealthy, or other particular institutions will be much more valuable than the run of the mill type, but will tend to be custom ordered. Architectural ornaments also covers a broad range of quality. Windows and Doors make a better speculative cargo, as they have greater demand and universal use.

Wine/Distilled Spirits

An effective Speculative Cargo, especially when the trader understand the market well. Typically, distilled spirits are more valuable than wine, but both have similar markets. Wine originates from wineries and the

spirits from distilleries, but both may be purchased from dealers. Retailers do the bulk of the buying, although restaurants and hotels, and sometimes passenger carrying spaceships, may be interested customers. Understanding wine can be a skill in itself, and the wise trader cultivates knowledge in this area before plunging into this trade. Sometimes, simple wines are carried in large container sized tanks, and when so transported are liquid cargos. This is a different sort of product- bulk wine is popular in some cultures, and is not instead of the individually packaged wine and spirit pallets.

Special Instructions: Wine in tanks is a liquid Cargo.

Work Clothing

Outwardly similar to the General Clothing category, but with key differences. First, buyers will often be organizations, corporations, and agencies that provide uniforms to their employees, in addition to retailers. Second, the speculative trader need not be as fashion conscious, as work clothing styles do not change as quickly, nor will high end, high fashion products bring large amounts of money.

Zinc stock

Includes Zinc Alloys. A soft, commonly used metal, valuable for its electrolytic (galvanizing) properties among other things. Used by industry and by developers. Purchased from smelters and dealers.