

Chapter 3- The Sale Of Goods Act, 1930

Unit-3: Transfer Of Ownership & Delivery Of Goods

Introduction

Sale of goods involves transfer of ownership of property from seller to buyer. It is essential to determine the time at which the ownership passes from the seller to the buyer.

Importance of the time of transfer

The general rule is that risk prima facie passes with the property. In case where goods are lost or damaged, the burden of loss will be borne by the person who is the owner at the time when the goods are lost or damaged.

Where the goods are damaged by the act of the third party, it is the owner who can take action. Suit for price by the seller can be filed only when the property has passed to the buyer.

Passing Of Property (Sections 18 – 26)

Passing or transfer of property constitutes the most important element and factor to decide legal rights and liabilities of sellers and buyers. Passing of property implies passing of ownership. If the property has passed to the buyer, the risk in the goods sold is that of buyer and not of seller, though the goods may still be in the seller's possession.

The rules regarding transfer of property in goods from the seller to the buyer depend on two basic factors:

<p>(a) Identification of Goods:</p>	<p><i>Section 18 provides that where there is a contract of sale for unascertained goods, the property in goods cannot pass to the buyer unless and until the goods are ascertained. The buyer can get the ownership right on the goods only when the goods are specific and ascertained.</i></p>
<p>(b) Intentions of parties:</p>	<p><i>The property in goods is transferred to the buyer at such time as the parties to the contract intend it to be transferred. [section 19(1)]</i></p> <p><i>Section 19(2) further provides that for the purpose of ascertaining the intention of the parties' regard shall be:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(i) To the terms of the contract</i></p>



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| | <p>(ii) To the conduct of the parties and
(iii) To the circumstances of the case</p> |
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The primary rules determining the passing of property from seller to buyer are as follows:

A. Property (Specific or ascertained goods) passes when intended to pass (Section 19)

Where there is a contract for the sale of specific or ascertained goods, the property in them is transferred to the buyer at such time as the parties to the contract intend it to be transferred. [sub-section (1)]
For the purpose of ascertaining the intention of the parties, regard shall be had to the terms of the contract, the conduct of the parties and the circumstances of the case. [sub-section (2)]
Unless a different intention appears, the rules contained in Sections 20 to 24 are rules for ascertaining the intention of the parties as to the time at which the property in the goods is to pass to the buyer. [sub-section (3)]

Stages of goods while passing of property

1. Specific goods in a deliverable state (Section 20)

Where there is an unconditional contract for the sale of specific goods in a deliverable state, the property in the goods passes to the buyer when the contract is made, and it is immaterial whether the time of payment of the price or the time of delivery of the goods, or both, is postponed. Here, the condition is goods must be ready for delivery.

Example: X goes into a shop and buys a television and asks the shopkeeper for its home delivery. The shopkeeper agrees to do it. The television immediately becomes the property of X.

2. Specific goods to be put into a deliverable state (Section 21)

Where there is a contract for the sale of specific goods and the seller is bound to do something to the goods for the purpose of putting them into a deliverable state, the property does not pass until such thing is done and the buyer has notice thereof.

Example: Peter buys a laptop from an electronics store and asks for a home delivery. The shopkeeper



		<p>agrees to it. However, the laptop does not have a Windows operating system installed. The shopkeeper promises to install it and call Peter before making the delivery. In this case, the property transfers to Peter only after the shopkeeper has installed the OS making the laptop ready for delivery and intimated the buyer about it.</p>		
	<p>3. Specific goods in a deliverable state, when the seller has to do anything thereto in order to ascertain price (Section 22)</p>	<p>Where there is a contract for the sale of specific goods in a deliverable state, but the seller is bound to weigh, measure, test or do some other act or thing with reference to the goods for the purpose of ascertaining the price, the property does not pass until such act or thing is done and the buyer has notice thereof.</p> <p>Example: A sold carpets to the Company which were required to be laid. The carpet was delivered to the company's premises but was stolen before it could be laid. It was held that the carpet was not in deliverable state as it was not laid, which was part of the contract and hence, the property had not passed to the buyer company.</p>		
<p>B. Unascertained goods</p>	<p>Where there is a contract for the sale of unascertained goods, no property in the goods is transferred to the buyer unless and until the goods are ascertained. [Section 18]</p> <p><u>The rules in respect of passing of property of unascertained goods are as follows:</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="434 1601 1513 1951"> <tr> <td data-bbox="434 1601 746 1951"> <p>1. Sale of unascertained goods by description and Appropriation [Section 23(1)]</p> </td> <td data-bbox="753 1601 1513 1951"> <p>Appropriation of goods involves selection of goods with the intention of using them in performance of the contract and with the mutual consent of the seller and the buyer.</p> <p><u>The essentials are:</u></p> <p>(a) There is a contract for the sale of unascertained or future goods.</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>1. Sale of unascertained goods by description and Appropriation [Section 23(1)]</p>	<p>Appropriation of goods involves selection of goods with the intention of using them in performance of the contract and with the mutual consent of the seller and the buyer.</p> <p><u>The essentials are:</u></p> <p>(a) There is a contract for the sale of unascertained or future goods.</p>
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- (b) The goods should conform to the description and quality stated in the contract.
- (c) The goods must be in a deliverable state.
- (d) The goods must be unconditionally (as distinguished from an intention to appropriate) appropriated to the contract either by delivery to the buyer or his agent or the carrier.
- (e) The appropriation must be made by:
 - (i) the seller with the assent of the buyer; or
 - (ii) the buyer with the assent of the seller.
- (f) The assent may be express or implied.
- (g) The assent may be given either before or after appropriation.

2. Delivery of the goods to the carrier
[Section 23(2)]

Where, in pursuance of the contract, the seller delivers the goods to the buyer or to a carrier or other bailee (whether named by the buyer or not) for the purpose of transmission to the buyer, and does not reserve the right of disposal, he is deemed to have unconditionally appropriated the goods to the contract.

Example: A bill of lading of railway parcel is made out in the name of the buyer and is sent to him, the ownership in the goods passes from the seller to the buyer. In case the goods are subjected to accidental loss or by theft, the seller will not be liable.

Example: M places an order for book with a book seller in Mumbai. He asks him to send the book by courier. Payment of the book was to be made by cheque. The seller sends the book by courier. The book is lost in the way. The seller wants the buyer to bear the loss. According to Section



23(2), it is an unconditional appropriation of goods because of which buyer M has become the owner of the goods. Therefore, he will bear the risk of loss of the book in the way.

C. Goods sent on approval or "on sale or return" (Section 24)

When goods are delivered to the buyer on approval or "on sale or return" or other similar terms, the property therein passes to the buyer-

(a) when he signifies his approval or acceptance to the seller or does any other act adopting the transaction;

(b) if he does not signify his approval or acceptance to the seller but retains the goods without giving notice of rejection, then, if a time has been fixed for the return of the goods, on the expiration of such time, and, if no time has been fixed, on the expiration of a reasonable time; or

(c) he does something to the good which is equivalent to accepting the goods e.g. he pledges or sells the goods.

Example: P brought a musical instrument from a musical shop on a condition that he will purchase it, if he likes that instrument. After a week he has informed the shop owner that he has agreed to purchase the musical instrument. The ownership is transferred when he has decided to purchase the instrument as his own.

A buyer under a contract on the basis of 'sale or return' is deemed to have exercised his option when he does any act exercising domination over the goods showing an unequivocal intention to buy, example, if he pledges the goods with a third party. Failure or inability to return the goods to the seller does not necessarily imply selection to buy.

Example: 'A' delivered some jewellery to 'B' on sale or return basis. 'B' pledged the jewellery with 'C'. It was held that the ownership of the jewellery had been transferred to 'B' as he had adopted the transaction by pledging the jewellery with 'C'. In this case, 'A' has no right against 'C'. He can only recover the price of the jewellery from 'B'.



Example: A sends to B a water motor on approval or return in March, 2020. B to return it after trial in August, 2020. The water motor has not been returned within a reasonable time, and therefore, A is not bound to accept it and B must pay the price.

Sale for cash only or Return

It may be noted that where the goods have been delivered by a person on “sale or return” on the terms that the goods were to remain the property of the seller till they are paid for, the property therein does not pass to the buyer until the terms are complied with, i.e., cash is paid for.

Example: ‘A’ delivered his jewellery to ‘B’ on sale for cash only or return basis. It was expressly provided in the contract that the jewellery shall remain ‘A’s’ property until the price is paid. Before the payment of the price, ‘B’ pledged the jewellery with ‘C’. It was held that at the time of pledge, the ownership was not transferred to ‘B’. Thus, the pledge was not valid and ‘A’ could recover the jewellery from ‘C’.

D. Reservation of right of disposal (Section 25)

This section preserves the right of disposal of goods to secure that the price is paid before the property in goods passes to the buyer.

Where there is contract of sale of specific goods or where the goods have been subsequently appropriated to the contract, the seller may, by the terms of the contract or appropriation, as the case may be, reserve the right to dispose of the goods, until certain conditions have been fulfilled. In such a case in spite of the fact that the goods have already been delivered to the buyer or to a carrier or other bailee for the purpose of transmitting the same to the buyer, the property therein will not pass to the buyer till the condition imposed, if any, by the seller has been fulfilled. (sub-section 1)

Example: X sends furniture to a company by a truck and instructs the driver not to deliver the furniture to the company until the payment



is made by company to him. The property passes only when the payment is made.

Circumstances under which the right to disposal may be reserved: In the following circumstances, seller is presumed to have reserved the right of disposal:

(1) If the goods are shipped or delivered to a railway administration for carriage and by the bill of lading or railway receipt, as the case may be, the goods are deliverable to the order of the seller or his agent, then the seller will be prima facie deemed to have reserved to the right of disposal. (sub section 2)

(2) Where the seller draws a bill on the buyer for the price and sends to him the bill of exchange together with the bill of lading or (as the case may be) the railway receipt to secure acceptance or payment thereof, the buyer must return the bill of lading, if he does not accept or pay the bill.

And if he wrongfully retains the bill of lading or the railway receipt, the property in the goods does not pass to him. (sub section 3)

It should be noted that Section 25 deals with “conditional appropriation” as distinguished from ‘unconditional appropriation’ dealt with under Section 23 (2).

Risk Prima Facie Passes with Property (Section 26)

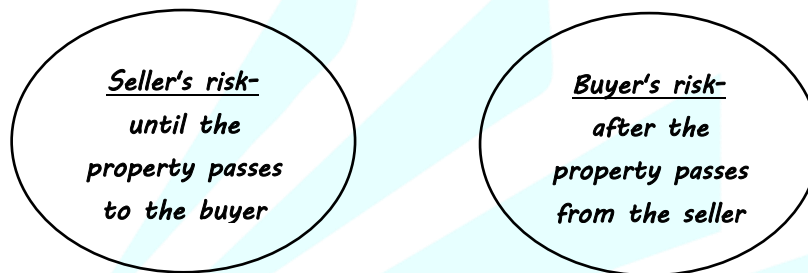
According to section 26, “unless otherwise agreed, the goods remain at the seller’s risk until the property therein is transferred to the buyer, but when the property therein is transferred to the buyer, the goods are at the buyer’s risk whether delivery has been made or not”.

However, Section 26 also lays down an exception to the rule that ‘risk follows ownership.’ It provides that where delivery of the goods has been delayed through the fault of either buyer or seller, the goods are at the risk of the party in fault as regards any loss which might not have occurred but for such fault.



Thus, in ordinary circumstances, risk is borne by the buyer only when the property in the goods passes over to him. However, the parties may by special agreement stipulate that 'risk' will pass sometime after or before the 'property' has passed.

Risk prima facie passes with ownership: The owner of goods must bear the loss or damage of goods unless otherwise is agreed to. Under Section 26 of the Sale of Goods Act, unless otherwise agreed, the goods remain at the seller's risk until property therein has passed to the buyer. After that event they are at the buyer's risk, whether delivery has been made or not.



Example: A bids for an antique painting at a sale by auction. After the bid, when the auctioneer struck his hammer to signify acceptance of the bid, he hit the antique which gets damaged. The loss will have to be borne by the seller, because the ownership of goods has not yet passed from the seller to the buyer.

The aforesaid rule is, however, subject to two qualifications:

(i) If delivery has been delayed by the fault of the seller or the buyer, the goods shall be at the risk of the party in default, as regards loss which might not have arisen but for the default.

(ii) The duties and liabilities of the seller or the buyer as bailee of goods for the other party remain unaffected even when the risk has passed generally

Example: A contracted to sell 100 bales of cotton to B to be delivered in February. B took the delivery of the part of the cotton but made a default in accepting the remaining bales. Consequently, the cotton becomes unfit for use. The loss will have to be borne by the buyer. It should, however, be remembered that the general rule shall not affect the duties or liabilities of either seller or buyer as a bailee of goods for the other, even when the risk has passed. It



their duty to take care of the goods as a man of ordinary prudence would have done.

As noted above, the risk (i.e., the liability to bear the loss in case property is destroyed, damaged or deteriorated) passes with ownership. The parties may, however, agree to the contrary. For instance, the parties may agree that risk will pass sometime after or before the property has passed from the seller to the buyer.

Transfer of Title by Non-Owners (Sections 27 – 30)

Sale by person not the owner (Section 27): In general, the seller can sell only such goods of which he is the absolute owner. But sometimes a person may sell goods of which he is not the owner, then the question arises as to what is the position of the buyer who has bought the goods by paying price. The general rule regarding the transfer of title is that the seller cannot transfer a better title to the buyer for goods than he himself has. If the seller is not the owner of goods, then the buyer also will not become the owner i.e. the title of the buyer shall be the same as that of the seller. This rule is expressed in the Latin maxim “Nemo dat quod non habet” which means that no one can give what he has not got.

Example: If A sells some stolen goods to B, who buys them in good faith, B will get no title to that and the true owner has a right to get back his goods from B.

Example: P, the hirer of vehicle under a hire purchase agreement, sells them to Q. Q, though a bona fide purchaser, does not acquire the ownership in the vehicle. At the most he acquires the same right as that of the hirer.

If this rule is enforced rigidly then the innocent buyers may be put to loss in many cases. Therefore, to protect the interests of innocent buyers, a number of exceptions have been provided to this rule.

Exceptions: In the following cases, a non-owner can convey better title to the bona fide purchaser of goods for value:



<p>(1) Sale by a Mercantile Agent</p>	<p>A sale made by a mercantile agent of the goods for document of title to goods would pass a good title to <u>the buyer in the following circumstances; namely;</u></p> <p>(a) If he was in possession of the goods or documents with the consent of the owner;</p> <p>(b) If the sale was made by him when acting in the ordinary course of business as a mercantile agent; and</p> <p>(c) If the buyer had acted in good faith and has at the time of the contract of sale, no notice of the fact that the seller had no authority to sell (Proviso to Section 27)</p> <p><u>Mercantile Agent</u> means an agent having in the customary course of business as such agent authority either to sell goods, or to consign goods for the purposes of sale, or to buy goods, or to raise money on the security of goods [Section 2(9)].</p>
<p>(2) Sale by one of the joint owners (Section 28)</p>	<p>If one of several joint owners of goods has the sole possession of goods by permission of the co-owners, the property in the goods is transferred to any person who buys them from such joint owner in good faith and has not at the time of the contract of sale notice that the seller has no authority to sell.</p> <p>Example: A, B, and C are three brothers and joint owners of a T.V and VCR and with the consent of B and C, the VCR and T.V was kept in possession of A. A sell the T.V and VCR to P who buys it in good faith and without notice that A had no authority to sell. P gets a good title to VCR and T.V.</p>
<p>(3) Sale by a person in possession under voidable contract</p>	<p>A buyer would acquire a good title to the goods sold to him by a seller who had obtained possession of the goods under a contract voidable on the ground of coercion, fraud, misrepresentation or undue influence provided that the contract had not been rescinded until the time of the sale (Section 29).</p> <p>Example: X fraudulently obtains a diamond ring from Y. This contract is voidable at the option of Y. But before the contract could be terminated, X sells the ring to Z, an innocent purchaser. Z gets the good title and</p>



	<p><i>Y cannot recover the ring from Z even if the contract is subsequently set aside.</i></p>
<p>(4) Sale by one who has already sold the goods but continues in possession thereof:</p>	<p><i>If a person has sold goods but continues to be in possession of them or of the documents of title to them, he may sell them to a third person, and if such person obtains the delivery thereof in good faith and without notice of the previous sale, he would have good title to them, although the property in the goods had passed to the first buyer earlier. A pledge or other disposition of the goods or documents of title by the seller in possession are equally valid [Section 30(1)].</i></p> <p><i>Example: During IPL matches, P buys a TV set from R. R agrees to deliver the same to P after some days. In meanwhile R sells the same to S, at a higher price, who buys in good faith and without knowledge about the previous sale. S gets a good title.</i></p>
<p>(5) Sale by buyer obtaining possession before the property in the goods has vested in him</p>	<p><i>Where a buyer with the consent of the seller obtains possession of the goods before the property in them has passed to him, he may sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of the goods to a third person, and if such person obtains delivery of the goods in good faith and without notice of the lien or other right of the original seller in respect of the goods, he would get a good title to them [Section 30(2)].</i></p> <p><i>Example: Furniture was delivered to B under an agreement that price was to be paid in two instalments, the furniture to become property of B on payment of second instalment. B sold the furniture before second instalment was paid. It was held that the buyer acquired a good title. (Lee Vs Butler).</i></p> <p><i>However, a person in possession of goods under a 'hire-purchase' agreement which gives him only an option to buy is not covered within the section unless it amounts to a sale.</i></p> <p><i>Example: A took a car from B on this condition that A would pay a monthly instalment of ₹5,000 as hire charges with an option to purchase it by payment of ₹1,00,000 in 24 instalments.</i></p>



	<p>After the payment of few instalments, A sold the car to C. B can recover the car from C since A had neither bought the car, nor had agreed to buy the car. He had only an option to buy the car.</p>
(6) Effect of Estoppel	<p>Where the owner is estopped by the conduct from denying the seller's authority to sell, the transferee will get a good title as against the true owner. But before a good title by estoppel can be made, it must be shown that the true owner had actively suffered or held out the other person in question as the true owner or as a person authorized to sell the goods.</p> <p>Example: 'A' said to 'B', a buyer, in the presence of 'C' that he (A) is the owner of the horse. But 'C' remained silent though the horse belonged to him. 'B' bought the horse from 'A'. Here the buyer (B) will get a valid title to the horse even though the seller (A) had no title to the horse. In this case, 'C', by his own conduct, is prevented from denying 'A's authority to sell the horse. Here, 'C's silence has induced 'B' to believe that 'A' is the owner of the horse.</p>
(7) Sale by an unpaid seller	<p>Where an unpaid seller who had exercised his right of lien or stoppage in transit resells the goods, the buyer acquires a good title to the goods as against the original buyer [Section 54 (3)].</p>
(8) Sale under the provisions of other Acts	<p>(i) Sale by an Official Receiver or Liquidator of the Company will give the purchaser a valid title.</p> <p>(ii) Purchase of goods from a finder of goods will get a valid title under circumstances [Section 169 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872]</p> <p>(iii) A sale by pawnee can convey a good title to the buyer [Section 176 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872]</p>

Performance of the Contract of Sale **(Sections 31 – 44)**

The performance of a contract of sale implies delivery of goods by the seller and acceptance of the delivery of goods and payment of price for them by the buyer in accordance of the terms of the contract.



Definition of Delivery [Section 2(2)]: Delivery means voluntary transfer of possession from one person to another. For delivery, physical possession is not important.

The buyer should be placed in a position so that he can exercise his right over the goods.

Thus, if the possession is taken through unfair means, there is no delivery of the goods. Delivery of goods sold may be made by doing anything which the parties agree, shall be treated as delivery or putting the goods in the possession of the buyer or of any person authorised to hold them on his behalf.

Delivery of goods is of three types:

(a) Actual Delivery

(c) Constructive Delivery

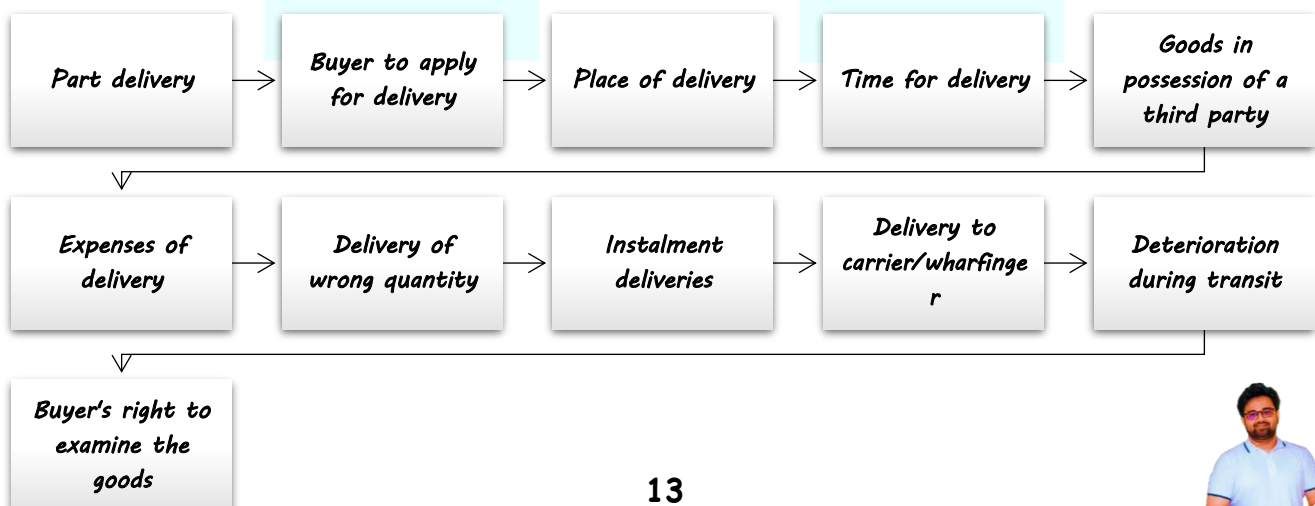
(b) Symbolic delivery

Duties of seller and buyer (Section 31): It is the duty of the seller to deliver the goods and of the buyer to accept and pay for them, in accordance with the terms of the contract of sale.

Payment and delivery are concurrent conditions (Section 32): Unless otherwise agreed, delivery of the goods and payment of the price are concurrent conditions, that is to say, the seller shall be ready and willing to give possession of the goods to the buyer in exchange for the price, and the buyer shall be ready and willing to pay the price in exchange for possession of the goods.

Rules Regarding Delivery of goods (Section 33-41)

The Sale of good Act, 1930 prescribes the following rules of delivery of goods:



<p>(i) Delivery (Section 33)</p>	<p><i>Delivery of goods sold may be made by doing anything which the parties agree shall be treated as delivery or which has the effect of putting the goods in the possession of the buyer or of any person authorised to hold them on his behalf.</i></p>
<p>(ii) Effect of part delivery (Section 34)</p>	<p><i>A delivery of part of goods, in progress of the delivery of the whole has the same effect, for the purpose of passing the property in such goods, as a delivery of the whole; but a delivery of part of the goods, with an intention of severing it from the whole, does not operate as a delivery of the remainder.</i></p> <p><i>Example: Certain goods lying at wharf were sold in a lot. The seller instructed the wharfinger to deliver them to the buyer who had paid for them and the buyer, thereafter, accepted them and took away part. Held, there was delivery of the whole</i></p>
<p>(iii) Buyer to apply for delivery (Section 35)</p>	<p><i>Apart from any express contract, the seller of goods is not bound to deliver them until the buyer applies for delivery.</i></p>
<p>(iv) Place of delivery [Section 36(1)]</p>	<p><i>Whether it is for the buyer to take possession of the goods or for the seller to send them to the buyer is a question depending in each case on the contract, express or implied, between the parties. Apart from any such contract,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>goods sold are to be delivered at the place at which they are at the time of the sale, and</i> ◆ <i>goods agreed to be sold are to be delivered at the place at which they are at the time of the agreement to sell or</i> ◆ <i>if goods are not then in existence, at the place at which they are manufactured or produced.</i>
<p>(v) Time of delivery [Section 36(2)]</p>	<p><i>Where under the contract of sale, the seller is bound to send the goods to the buyer, but no time for sending them is fixed, the seller is bound to send them within a reasonable time.</i></p>
<p>(vi) Goods in possession of a third party</p>	<p><i>Where the goods at the time of sale are in possession of a third person, there is no delivery unless and until such third person acknowledges to the buyer that he holds the goods on his behalf. Provided that nothing</i></p>



<p>[Section 36(3)]</p>	<p><i>in this section shall affect the operation of the issue or transfer of any document of title to goods.</i></p>
<p>(vii) Time for tender of delivery [Section 36(4)]</p>	<p><i>Demand or tender of delivery may be treated as ineffectual unless made at a reasonable hour. What is reasonable hour is a question of fact.</i></p>
<p>(viii) Expenses for delivery [Section 36(5)]</p>	<p><i>The expenses of and incidental to putting the goods into a deliverable state must be borne by the seller in the absence of a contract to the contrary.</i></p>
<p>(ix) Delivery of wrong quantity [Section 37]</p>	<p><i>Where the seller delivers to the buyer a quantity of goods less than he contracted to sell, the buyer may reject them, but if the buyer accepts the goods so delivered, he shall pay for them at the contract rate. [Subsection (1)].</i></p> <p><i>Where the seller delivers to the buyer a quantity of goods larger than he contracted to sell, the buyer may accept the goods included in the contract and reject the rest, or he may reject the whole. If the buyer accepts the whole of the goods so delivered, he shall pay for them at the contract rate. [Sub-section (2)]</i></p> <p><i>Where the seller delivers to the buyer the goods, he contracted to sell mixed with goods of a different description not included in the contract, the buyer may accept the goods which are in accordance with the contract and reject, or may reject the whole. [Subsection (3)]</i></p> <p><i>The provisions of this section are subject to any usage of trade, special agreement or course of dealing between the parties. [Sub-section (4)]</i></p> <p>Example: <i>A agrees to sell 100 quintals of wheat to B at ₹1,000 per quintal. A delivers 1,100 quintals. B may reject the whole lot or accept only 1,000 quintals and reject the rest or accept the whole lot and pay for them at the contract of sale.</i></p>



<p>(x) Instalment deliveries (Section 38)</p>	<p>Unless otherwise agreed, the buyer is not bound to accept delivery in instalments. The rights and liabilities in cases of delivery by instalments and payments thereon may be determined by the parties of contract. Example: There was sale of 100 tons of paper to be shipped in November. The seller shipped 80 tons in November and 20 tons in December. The buyer was entitled to reject the whole 100 tons.</p>
<p>(xi) Delivery to carrier [Section 39(1)]</p>	<p>Subject to the terms of contract, the delivery of the goods to the carrier for transmission to the buyer, is prima facie deemed to be delivery to the buyer.</p>
<p>(xii) Deterioration during transit (Section 40)</p>	<p>Where goods are delivered at a distant place, the liability for deterioration necessarily incidental to the course of transit will fall on the buyer, though the seller agrees to deliver at his own risk. Example: P sold to Q a certain quantity of iron rods which were to be sent by proper vessel. It was rusted before it reached the buyer. The rust of the rod was so minimal and was not effecting the merchantable quality and the deterioration was not necessarily incidental to its transmission. It was held that Q was bound to accept the goods.</p>
<p>(xiii) Buyer's right to examine the goods (Section 41)</p>	<p>Where goods are delivered to the buyer, who has not previously examined them, he is entitled to a reasonable opportunity of examining them in order to ascertain whether they are in conformity with the contract. Unless otherwise agreed, the seller is bound, on request, to afford the buyer a reasonable opportunity of examining the goods.</p>

Rule related to Acceptance of Delivery of Goods (Section 42):

Acceptance is deemed to take place when the buyer-

(a) intimates to the seller that he had accepted the goods; or

(b) does any act to the goods, which is inconsistent with the ownership of the seller; or

(c) retains the goods after the lapse of a reasonable time, without intimating to the seller that he has rejected them.



Buyer not bound to return rejected goods (Section 43): Unless otherwise agreed, where goods are delivered to the buyer and he refuses to accept them, having the right so to do, he is not bound to return them to the seller, but it is sufficient if he intimates to the seller that he refuses to accept them.

Liability of buyer for neglecting or refusing delivery of goods (Section 44): When the seller is ready and willing to deliver the goods and requests the buyer to take delivery, and the buyer does not within a reasonable time after such request take delivery of the goods, he is liable to the seller for any loss occasioned by his neglect or refusal to take delivery and also for a reasonable charge for the care and custody of the goods.

Provided further that nothing in this section shall affect the rights of the seller where the neglect or refusal of the buyer to take delivery amounts to a repudiation of the contract.

