§ 123.0 Scope.

This part contains special regulations pertaining to Customs procedures at the Canadian and Mexican borders. Included are provisions governing report of arrival, manifesting, unlading and lading, instruments of international traffic, shipments in transit through Canada or Mexico or through the United States, commercial traveler’s samples transiting the United States or Canada, and baggage arriving from Canada or Mexico including baggage transiting the United States or Canada or Mexico. Aircraft arriving from or departing for Canada or Mexico are governed by the provisions of part 122 of this chapter. The arrival of all vessels from, and clearance of all vessels departing for, Canada or Mexico are governed by the provisions of part 4 of this chapter. Fees for services provided in connection with the arrival of aircraft, vessels, vehicles and other conveyances from Canada or Mexico are set forth in §24.22 of this chapter.

Regulations pertaining to the treatment of goods from Canada or Mexico under the North American Free Trade Agreement are contained in part 181 of this chapter.


Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 123.1 Report of arrival from Canada or Mexico and permission to proceed.

(a) Individuals. Individuals arriving in the United States, unless excepted by voluntary enrollment in and compliance with PORTPASS—a joint Customs Service/Immigration and Naturalization Service facilitated entry program (See, Immigration and Naturalization Regulations at 8 CFR 235.7), must report their arrival to Customs, and failure to report arrival may result in the individual being liable for certain civil and criminal penalties, as provided under 19 U.S.C. 1459, in addition to other penalties applicable under other provisions of law. The specific reporting requirements are as follows:

(1) Individuals not arriving by conveyance. Persons arriving otherwise than by conveyance may enter the U.S. only at those locations specified by the Commissioner of Customs, or his designee, and shall then immediately report their arrival to Customs. Such persons shall not depart from the Customs port or station until authorized to do so by the appropriate Customs officer.

(2) Persons arriving aboard a conveyance that reported its arrival. Persons aboard a conveyance the arrival of which has been reported to Customs at locations specified by the Commissioner of Customs, or his designee in accordance with section 1433, 1644 or
1644a of title 19, United States Code (19 U.S.C. 1433, 1644, 1644a), shall remain on board until authorized by Customs to depart, and shall then immediately report to the designated Customs facility together with all articles accompanying them.

(b) Vessels. Vessels may arrive in the U.S. only at a designated port of entry (see §101.3 of this chapter) or Customs station if the Commissioner of Customs, or his designee authorizes entry at that station (see §101.4 of this chapter). Upon arrival of the vehicle in the U.S., the driver, unless he or she and all of the vehicle’s occupants are excepted by enrollment in, and in compliance with, PORTPASS—a joint Customs Service/Immigration and Naturalization Service facilitated entry program (See, Immigration and Naturalization Regulations at 8 CFR 235.1 and 286.8), immediately shall report such arrival to Customs, and shall not depart or discharge any passenger or merchandise (including baggage) without authorization by the appropriate Customs officer.

(c) Vessels. For report of arrival requirements applicable to all vessels, regardless of tonnage, and arriving from any location, see §4.2 of this chapter.

(d) Method of reporting. Report of arrival under paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section shall be made in person unless the port director, by local instructions, requires that it be made by some other specific means. Such local instructions issued by the port director will be made available to interested parties by posting in Customs offices, publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Customs port that supervises the location, and/or other appropriate means.

§123.2 Penalty for failure to report arrival or for proceeding without a permit.

(a) Persons. Any person arriving otherwise than by conveyance who enters the U.S. at other than a designated port of entry, or Customs station if authorization exists for entry at that station, who fails to report arrival as required in §123.1(a) of this part, or who departs from the port of entry or Customs station without authorization by the appropriate Customs officer, whether or not intentionally, shall be subject to such civil and criminal penalties as are prescribed under 19 U.S.C. 1459 and provided for in §123.1 of this part.

(b) Vessels. The penalty provisions applicable to vessels for failure to report arrival or for proceeding without a permit are those as provided in §4.3a.

(c) Vessels—(1) Civil penalties. The person in charge of any vehicle who—

(i) Enters the vehicle into the U.S. at other than a designated port of entry, or Customs station if authorization exists for entry at that station;

(ii) Fails to report arrival and present the vehicle and all persons and merchandise (including baggage) without authorization by the appropriate Customs officer.

(iii) Fails to file a manifest or any other document required to be filed in connection with arrival in the U.S. under this part; or

(iv) Without authorization by the appropriate Customs officer, removes such vehicle from the port of entry or Customs station or discharges any passenger or merchandise (including baggage) shall be subject to such civil penalties as are prescribed in section 436, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1436), and any conveyance used in connection with any such violation shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture. The person also may be subject to an additional civil penalty equal to the value of the merchandise on the