§ 133.44 Decision of disputed claim of infringement.

(a) Claim of infringement sustained. Upon determination by the Commissioner of Customs or his designee that the detained article forwarded in accordance with §133.43(c)(1) is an infringing copy, the port director shall seize the imported article and institute forfeiture proceedings in accordance with part 162 of this chapter. The bond of the copyright owner shall be returned.

(b) Denial of infringement sustained. Upon determination by the Commissioner of Customs or his designee that the detained article forwarded in accordance with §133.43(c)(1) is not an infringing copy, the port director shall release all detained merchandise and transmit the copyright owner's bond to the importer.

§ 133.45 [Reserved]

§ 133.46 Demand for redelivery of released articles.

If it is determined that articles which have been released from Customs custody are subject to the prohibitions or restrictions of this subpart, the director of the port of entry shall promptly make demand for redelivery of the articles under the terms of the bond on Customs Form 301, containing the bond conditions set forth in §113.62 of this chapter, in accordance with §141.13 of this chapter. If the articles are not redelivered to Customs custody, a claim for liquidated damages shall be made in accordance with §141.113 of this chapter.


§ 133.51 Relief from forfeiture or liquidated damages.

(a) Petition for relief. The importer may petition in accordance with parts 171 and 172 of this chapter for relief from, or cancellation of, a forfeiture incurred for violation of the trademark or copyright laws, or a claim for liquidated damages for failure to redeliver released merchandise incurred under the provisions of §133.24 or §133.46.

(b) Conditioned relief. In appropriate cases, except for articles bearing a counterfeit trademark, relief from a forfeiture may be granted pursuant to a petition for relief upon the following conditions and such other conditions as may be specified by the appropriate Customs authority:

1. The unlawfully imported or prohibited articles are exported or destroyed under Customs supervision and at no expense to the Government;
2. All offending trademarks or trade names are removed or obliterated prior to release of the articles;
3. In the case of books or periodicals manufactured abroad contrary to the terms of the "American manufacturing clause" of the Copyright Act of 1976 (17 U.S.C. 602, 603):
   (i) Satisfactory evidence is submitted that a statement of abandonment has been filed and recorded in the Copyright Office by the copyright owner in accordance with the procedures of the Copyright Office; and
   (ii) The notice of copyright is completely obliterated prior to release of the books or periodicals.


§ 133.52 Disposition of forfeited merchandise.

(a) Trademark (other than counterfeit) or trade name violations. Articles forfeited for violation of the trademark laws, other than articles bearing a counterfeit trademark, shall be disposed of in accordance with the procedures applicable to forfeitures for violation of the Customs laws, after the