

Relocation Allowances

§ 302-7.401

§ 302-7.302 What is the maximum weight allowance for a UAB shipment?

The maximum weight allowance your agency may grant for a UAB shipment is—

(a) Up to 350 pounds actual weight (including the weight of the luggage or packing material) for the employee and each immediate family member 12 years of age and over; or

(b) Up to 175 pounds actual weight (including the weight of the luggage or packing material) for each immediate family member under 12 years of age.

§ 302-7.303 When may my agency authorize the shipment of UAB by expedited means?

Your agency may authorize the shipment of UAB by expedited means when:

(a) Shipment by a lower cost mode cannot deliver the items being shipped by the time they will be needed by the employee and/or the employee's immediate family; or

(b) You certify that expedited shipment of your UAB is necessary to carry out your assigned duties; or

(c) Your agency determines that an expedited shipment is necessary to prevent undue hardship to you and members of your immediate family.

§ 302-7.304 Who makes arrangements for transporting my UAB?

Your agency or your agency's designee should arrange for the transport of your UAB. In limited situations, the agency may ask the employee to make the arrangements for a UAB shipment.

§ 302-7.305 When must my agency ship my UAB?

Your agency must ship your UAB in time to ensure that your shipment arrives by the time you (and/or your family) report to your new official station. Arrangements should begin prior to your and/or your family's departure to your new official station.

Subpart E—Agency Responsibilities

SOURCE: FTR Amdt. 2011-01, 76 FR 18341, Apr. 1, 2011, unless otherwise noted.

NOTE TO SUBPART E: Use of pronouns “we,” “you,” and their variants throughout this subpart refers to the agency.

§ 302-7.400 What policies and procedures must we establish for this subpart?

You must establish policies and procedures as required for this subpart, including who will:

(a) Administer your household goods program;

(b) Authorize commuted rate or actual expense for transportation and payment for HHG, PBP&E, and temporary storage;

(c) Authorize PBP&E to be transported as an agency administrative expense in accordance with FTR guidelines (usually the authorizing official for PBP&E will be at the employee's new official station);

(d) Authorize an employee to ship UAB;

(e) Collect any excess costs or charges;

(f) Advise the employee on the Government's liability for any personal property damage or loss claims (*See* 31 U.S.C. 3721, *et seq.*);

(g) Ensure that international HHG shipments by water are made on ships registered under the laws of the United States whenever such ships are available (*see* The Cargo Preference Act of 1904 (10 U.S.C. 2631) and The Cargo Preference Act of 1954 (46 U.S.C. 55302));

(h) Authorize temporary storage in excess of the initial 60-day limit for CONUS shipments or 90-day limit for OCONUS shipments; and

(i) Ensure pre-payment audits are completed.

§ 302-7.401 What method of transportation and payment should we authorize for shipment and temporary storage of HHG?

There are two methods of arranging and paying for shipment of HHG and providing for temporary storage: actual expense and commuted rate. You must authorize actual expense or commuted rate, depending on which is less costly to the Government. You must then specify the selected method on the relocation travel authorization.

(a) *Actual expense method.* Under the actual expense method, the Government assumes the responsibility for arranging and paying for the actual expenses of all aspects of shipping the employee's HHG, including PBP&E, if any. These expenses may include but are not limited to: Packing/unpacking, crating/uncrating, pickup/delivery, weighing, line-haul, drayage, and temporary storage. This method is used for all shipments to/from/between OCONUS, and within CONUS where deemed economical to the Government.

(b) *Commutated rate system.*

(1) Under the commuted rate system, the employee assumes total responsibility for arranging and paying for the expenses of all aspects of shipping the employee's HHG, including PBP&E, if any. These expenses may include but are not limited to: Packing/unpacking, crating/uncrating, pickup/delivery, weighing, line-haul, drayage, and temporary storage. This method is used only for shipments within CONUS, and only where it is less costly to the Government than actual expense. The employee may arrange for shipment with a commercial HHG carrier or may rent self-drive equipment for a do-it-yourself move.

(2) The commuted rate is calculated based on published HHG tariffs applied to the actual weight of the goods being shipped (subject also to the weight limitation in §§ 302-7.2 through 302-7.5).

(3) If a PBP&E shipment causes the weight of a shipment under the commuted rate method to exceed the 18,000 pounds net weight allowance for HHG, then the actual cost of shipping that excess weight attributed to the PBP&E may be paid as an administrative expense of the agency. In this case, all related transportation arrangements (e.g., packing/unpacking, crating/uncrating, pickup/delivery, weighing, temporary storage, etc.) associated with shipping this excess weight will be handled and paid for by the agency (see § 302-7.5 for the process of determining what will be paid for by the agency).

§ 302-7.402 What method of transportation and payment should we authorize for shipment of PBP&E and UAB?

(a) You should authorize the actual expense method for shipping an employee's PBP&E only when the weight of the PBP&E causes the employee's shipment to exceed the maximum 18,000 pounds net HHG weight limitation and in accordance with § 302-7.403. Preferably, PBP&E should be identified and weighed prior to shipment, so the weight can easily be deducted from the 18,000 pounds net weight allowance. In cases where the weight of the PBP&E causes the shipment to exceed the 18,000 pounds net weight allowance for HHG, the PBP&E shipment may be paid for as an administrative expense by you, provided you authorized PBP&E.

(b) You should authorize the actual expense method for shipping an employee's UAB. UAB should be identified, weighed, and shipped prior to shipment of HHG. In cases where the weight of the UAB causes the shipment to exceed the 18,000 pounds net weight allowance for HHG, the cost of the excess weight is the responsibility of the employee. Under the actual expense method of shipment, you are responsible for paying the bill of lading in full and then collecting any excess cost from the employee.

§ 302-7.403 What guidelines must we follow when authorizing transportation of PBP&E as an administrative expense?

You have the sole discretion to authorize transportation of PBP&E as an administrative expense and may do so provided that:

(a) The authorizing official has certified that the PBP&E is necessary for performance of the employee's duties at the new duty station;

(b) The authorizing official has certified that, if these items were not transported, the same or similar items would have to be obtained at Government expense for the employee's use at the new official station;

(c) You have acquired evidence that transporting the PBP&E would cause the employees' HHG to exceed the 18,000 pounds net weight allowance; and