

(g) Arbitrary or fictitious values.

[T.D. 81–7, 46 FR 2600, Jan. 12, 1981, as amended by T.D. 85–123, 50 FR 29956, July 23, 1985]

## **PART 158—RELIEF FROM DUTIES ON MERCHANDISE LOST, DAMAGED, ABANDONED, OR EXPORTED**

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**AUTHORITY:** 19 U.S.C. 66, 1624, unless otherwise noted. Subpart C also issued under 19 U.S.C. 1563.

**SOURCE:** T.D. 72–258, 37 FR 20171, Sept. 27, 1972, unless otherwise noted.

### **§ 158.0 Scope.**

This part sets forth general rules for granting relief from duties on merchandise which is lost, damaged, abandoned, or exported.

## **Subpart A—Lost or Missing Packages and Deficiencies in Contents of Packages**

### **§ 158.1 Definition of “permitted” merchandise.**

For the purpose of this subpart, merchandise is “permitted” when Customs authorizes the carrier bringing the shipment to the port to make delivery to the consignee or the next carrier and:

(a) These parties in interest, or their agents, make a joint determination of the quantities being delivered, or,

(b) The carrier bringing the shipment to the port, at its option, independently declares the quantities available for delivery by filing with the port director, no later than the close of business on the next working day after a determination of quantities is made, a signed statement that:

(1) An independent determination of quantities of merchandise available for delivery has been made, with the date of the determination shown;

(2) At least 4 days have elapsed since the consignee or his agent was notified that Customs has authorized delivery; and,

(3) The merchandise was and is available for delivery.

### **§ 158.2 Shortages in packages released under immediate delivery or entry.**

An importer may file an entry summary for consumption or an entry summary for warehouse for less than the invoiced and manifested number of

packages in a shipment “permitted” and delivered to him or deposited in a bonded warehouse under the immediate delivery procedure in §142.21 of this chapter, or under the entry documentation in §142.3(a), if he files with the entry summary a Customs Form 5931 in triplicate. The Customs Form 5931 shall be completed by the importer with attached copies of the dock receipt or other documents evidencing nonreceipt of the lost or missing packages.

[T.D. 85-159, 50 FR 38520, Sept. 23, 1985]

**§ 158.3 Allowance for lost or missing packages included in an entry summary.**

Allowance shall be made in the assessment of duties for lost or missing packages of merchandise included in an entry summary whenever it is established to the satisfaction of the Center director before the liquidation of the entry summary becomes final that the merchandise claimed to be lost or missing was not “permitted.” A claim for such allowance shall be made on Customs Form 5931, in triplicate, executed by the importer and the importing carrier or bonded carrier, as appropriate. When the importing or bonded carrier refuses to execute the Customs Form 5931, a claim may be allowed if the importer properly executes the Customs Form 5931 and attaches copies of the dock receipt or other document evidencing nonreceipt of the lost or missing packages.

[T.D. 72-258, 37 FR 20171, Sept. 27, 1972, as amended by T.D. 79-221, 44 FR 46829, Aug. 9, 1979; CBP Dec. No. 16-26, 81 FR 93023, Dec. 20, 2016]

**§ 158.4 Liability of carrier for lost or missing packages.**

Upon a joint determination or independent determination of quantity as set forth in §158.1 (a) or (b) resulting in the merchandise being “permitted,” the carrier shall be responsible only for any discrepancy between the manifested quantity and the “permitted” quantity. In the case of an importing carrier, when there is a difference between the quantity shown on the inward foreign manifest and the quantity “permitted,” liquidated damages or duties shall be assessed under the provisions

of the carrier’s bond or under the provisions of section 448, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1448), unless the carrier corrects his manifest (see §4.12 of this chapter). In the case of a bonded carrier, liquidated damages for lost or missing merchandise shall be assessed in accordance with §18.8 of this chapter.

**§ 158.5 Deficiencies in contents of packages—general.**

An allowance shall be made in the assessment of duties for deficiencies in the contents of packages when, before the liquidation of the entry becomes final, the importer files:

(a) In the case of a concealed shortage, a Customs Form 5931, in triplicate, executed by the importer alone, and the Center director is satisfied as to the validity of the claim; or,

(b) In the case of an unconcealed shortage, a Customs Form 5931, in triplicate, executed by both the importer and the importing or bonded carrier, as appropriate.

[T.D. 72-258, 37 FR 20171, Sept. 27, 1972, as amended by CBP Dec. No. 16-26, 81 FR 93023, Dec. 20, 2016]

**§ 158.6 Deficiencies in contents of examination packages.**

Allowance for deficiency in the contents of any examination package reported to the port director by a Customs officer shall be made in the liquidation of the entry. No Customs officer except one making an examination contemplated by section 499, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1499), shall report a supposed deficiency to the port director unless it is established to the satisfaction of the reporting officer that the merchandise was not imported.

(Sec. 499, 46 Stat. 728, as amended; 19 U.S.C. 1499)

**§ 158.7 Allowance for reduction or loss of merchandise by a natural force or by leakage.**

Merchandise subject to ad valorem, specific, or compound rates of duty found at the time of importation to be reduced or diminished by a natural force, such as evaporation, or by leakage, shall be appraised in its condition as imported, with an allowance made

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in the value, weight, quantity, or measure to the extent of the reduction or loss, except when forbidden by law or regulation.

(R.S. 251, as amended, sec. 499, sec. 624, 46 Stat. 728, as amended, 759 (19 U.S.C. 66, 1499, 1624))

[T.D. 78-448, 43 FR 53713, Nov. 17, 1978]

### Subpart B—Damaged or Defective Merchandise

#### § 158.11 Merchandise completely worthless at time of importation.

(a) *Nonperishable merchandise.* When a shipment of nonperishable merchandise, or any portion thereof which shall have been segregated from the remainder of the shipment under Customs supervision at the expense of the importer, is found by the port director to be entirely without commercial value at the time of importation by reason of damage or deterioration, an allowance in duties on such merchandise on the ground of nonimportation shall be made in the liquidation of the entry.

(b) *Perishable merchandise.* In the case of perishable merchandise, an allowance in duties may be made under the following conditions:

(1) An application for such allowance shall be filed with the port director on Customs Form 4315, or its electronic equivalent, in duplicate, within 96 hours after the unloading of the merchandise and before any of the shipment involved has been removed from the pier (or other area permitted under §142.2(b)(2) of this chapter) pursuant to the entry permit.

(2) Should an application filed in accordance with paragraph (b)(1) of this section be withdrawn, the merchandise involved shall thereafter be released upon presentation of an appropriate permit.

(3) Allowance in duty shall be made in the liquidation of the entry on such of the merchandise covered by the application as is found by the port director to be entirely without commercial

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value by reason of damage or deterioration.

(Sec. 506, 46 Stat. 732, as amended; 19 U.S.C. 1506)

[T.D. 72-258, 37 FR 20171, Sept. 27, 1972, as amended by T.D. 76-220, 41 FR 33248, Aug. 9, 1976; CBP Dec. 15-14, 80 FR 61292, Oct. 13, 2015]

#### § 158.12 Merchandise partially damaged at time of importation.

(a) *Allowance in value.* Merchandise which is subject to ad valorem or compound duties and found by the port director to be partially damaged at the time of importation shall be appraised in its condition as imported, with an allowance made in the value to the extent of the damage. However, no allowance shall be made when forbidden by law or regulation; for example, Chapter 72, Additional U.S. Note 3, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202), provides that no allowance or reduction of duties for partial damage or loss in consequence of discoloration or rust occurring before importation shall be made upon iron or steel or upon any article of iron or steel.

(b) *No allowance in specific duties.* In the case of merchandise subject to specific or compound duties and found to be partially damaged at the time of importation, no allowance may be made in the specific duties or in the weight, quantity, or measure (except that an allowance for any excessive moisture or other impurities may be made in accordance with §158.13). However, any part of the shipment which is totally worthless and can be segregated from the rest of the shipment may be treated as a nonimportation in accordance with §158.11.

(Sec. 506, 46 Stat. 732, as amended; 19 U.S.C. 1506)

[T.D. 72-258, 37 FR 20171, Sept. 27, 1972, as amended by T.D. 89-1, 53 FR 51270, Dec. 21, 1988]

#### § 158.13 Allowance for moisture and impurities.

(a) *Application by importer—(1) Petroleum and petroleum products.* An application for an allowance in duties under section 507, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1507), for all detectable moisture and impurities present in

or upon imported petroleum or petroleum products shall be made by the importer on Customs Form 4315, or its electronic equivalent. The application shall be filed with the port director within 10 days of the port director's receipt of the gauging report or within 10 days of Customs acceptance of the entry's invoice gauge.

(2) *Other products.* An application for an allowance in duties under 19 U.S.C. 1507 for products other than petroleum or petroleum products for excessive moisture or other impurities not usually found in or upon such or similar merchandise shall be made by the importer on Customs Form 4315, or its electronic equivalent. The application shall be filed with the port director within 10 days after the report of weight or gauge has been received by the port director or within 10 days after the date upon which the entry or a related document was endorsed to show that invoice weight or gauge has been accepted by the Customs inspector or other Customs officer.

(b) *Allowance by Center director.* If the port director is satisfied after any necessary investigation that the merchandise contains moisture or impurities as described in paragraph (a) of this section, the Center director will make allowance for the amount thereof in the liquidation of the entry.

[T.D. 90-78, 55 FR 40167, Oct. 2, 1990, as amended by CBP Dec. 15-14, 80 FR 61292, Oct. 13, 2015; CBP Dec. No. 16-26, 81 FR 93023, Dec. 20, 2016]

#### **§ 158.14 Perishable merchandise condemned.**

(a) *Application by importer.* When fruit or other perishable merchandise has been condemned by health officers or other legally constituted authorities within 10 days after landing, an importer who desires allowance in duties under section 506(2), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1506(2)), shall within 5 days after such condemnation file with the port director written notice of the condemnation. The date of landing in the case of merchandise forwarded under an entry for immediate transportation is the date of arrival at the port of destination.

(b) *Allowance in duties.* If the port director is satisfied after any necessary

investigation that the claim is valid, allowance in duties shall be made in the liquidation of the entry. Such allowance shall be limited to perishable goods condemned by the health officers or authorities in the original package, unless segregation of the merchandise was under constant Customs supervision at the importer's expense.

(Sec. 506(2), 46 Stat. 732, as amended; 19 U.S.C. 1506(2))

### **Subpart C—Casualty, Loss, or Theft While in Customs Custody**

#### **§ 158.21 Allowance in duties for casualty, loss, or theft while in Customs custody.**

Section 563(a), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1563(a)), provides for allowance in duties upon satisfactory proof of the loss or theft of any merchandise while in the public stores, or of the actual injury or destruction, in whole or in part, of any merchandise by accidental fire or other casualty, while in bonded warehouse, or in the public stores, or while in transportation under bond, or while in Customs custody although not in bond, or while within the limits of any port of entry and before having been landed under Customs supervision. Such allowance is subject to the conditions set forth in this subpart.

#### **§ 158.21a Time period.**

An abatement or refund of duties shall be made in the case of injury to, or destruction of, merchandise in a bonded warehouse as a result of accidental fire or other casualty only if the fire or casualty occurs within 3 years from the date of importation.

[T.D. 79-221, 44 FR 46829, Aug. 9, 1979]

#### **§ 158.22 Not applicable when allowances made under other provisions.**

The procedures in this subpart do not apply in cases where allowances in duties are made under subpart A or subpart B of this part, or § 18.6 of this chapter.

#### **§ 158.23 Filing of application and evidence by importer.**

Within 30 days from the date of his discovery of the loss, theft, injury, or

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destruction, the importer shall file an application in duplicate on Customs Form 4315, or its electronic equivalent and within 90 days from the date of discovery shall file any evidence required by § 158.26 or § 158.27.

[ T.D. 72-258, 37 FR 20171, Sept. 27, 1972, as amended by CBP Dec. 15-14, 80 FR 61292, Oct. 13, 2015]

### **§ 158.24 Place of filing.**

The application and evidence shall be filed with the director of the port where the loss, theft, injury, or destruction occurred. In the case of total loss of merchandise by fire or other casualty while in transportation under bond, the application and evidence shall be filed with the director of the port at which the transportation entry was made. In the case of partial destruction of or injury to such merchandise, the application and evidence shall be filed with the director of the port of destination, except that if the merchandise is returned to the port at which the transportation entry was made, the application shall be filed at that port.

### **§ 158.25 Partial destruction or injury.**

In the case of partial destruction or injury, no application shall be entertained unless the port director shall have had an opportunity to examine the merchandise or the remainder thereof for the purpose of fixing the percentage of injury or destruction. Whether the duty involved is ad valorem, specific, or compound, the percentage of injury for the purpose of the allowance shall be determined by comparing the market value of comparable sound merchandise with the net salvage value of the injured merchandise computed on the basis of the market value of comparable injured merchandise, such comparison to be made as of the time and place of examination.

### **§ 158.26 Loss or theft in public stores.**

In the case of alleged loss or theft while the merchandise is in the public stores, there shall be filed a declaration of the importer, owner, or ultimate consignee that he did not receive the merchandise and that to the best of his knowledge and belief it was lost or stolen as alleged in the application. If

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the alleged loss or theft consisted of only a part of an examination package and was discovered after the release of the package from Customs custody, the following evidence shall be submitted:

(a) A declaration of each cartman, lighterman, or other carrier handling the package between the public stores and the place of delivery, setting forth the condition of the package at the time of receipt and delivery by him and whether or not there was an abstraction of the merchandise while the package was in his possession.

(b) A declaration of the person who first received the package for the importer, owner, or ultimate consignee as to whether or not he examined the package at the time of receipt, and, if so, as to its condition at that time.

(c) A declaration of the person who opened the package after release from Customs custody that the alleged missing merchandise was not found by him in the package or elsewhere.

### **§ 158.27 Accidental fire or other casualty.**

In the case of injury or destruction by accidental fire or other casualty, the following evidence shall be submitted:

(a) A declaration of the master of the vessel, the conductor or driver of the vehicle, the proprietor of the warehouse, or other person (except a Customs officer) having charge of the merchandise at the time of casualty, stating:

(1) The time, place, and nature of such casualty;

(2) That the merchandise was on board the vessel or vehicle, in the warehouse, or otherwise in his charge, as the case may be, at the time of the casualty; and

(3) That it was totally destroyed and there is no probability of recovering or saving any part thereof, or that it was injured as the result of the casualty.

(b) The bill of lading, the entry summary (where appropriate) and the invoice covering the merchandise, or certified copies of the foregoing, unless such documents are already in the possession of the director of the port where the claim is filed.

(c) A copy of the insurance appraiser's report, if any.

[T.D. 72-258, 37 FR 20171, Sept. 27, 1972, as amended by T.D. 79-221, 44 FR 46829, Aug. 9, 1979]

#### § 158.28 Waiver of evidence.

The port director may waive the production of any of the evidence required by this subpart if the validity of the claim is otherwise established to his satisfaction.

#### § 158.29 Decision by port director.

When the application and evidence have been received and examined by the port director, he shall determine whether the desired abatement or refund of duty shall be made and notify the importer of his decision.

#### § 158.30 Review of port director's decision.

(a) *Filing of petition.* The importer may file with the port director a petition addressed to the Commissioner of Customs for a review of the port director's decision. Such petition shall be filed in duplicate within 30 days from the date of the notice of the port director's decision, shall completely identify the case, and shall set forth in detail the objections to the port director's decision.

(b) *Decision by Commissioner.* When the petition has been filed, the port director shall promptly transmit both copies thereof and the entire file to the Commissioner, together with a full statement of his views. When the Commissioner's decision is received, the port director shall proceed in conformity therewith.

### Subpart D—Destroyed, Abandoned, or Exported Merchandise

#### § 158.41 Destruction of prohibited merchandise.

Merchandise regularly entered or withdrawn for consumption in good faith and denied admission into the United States by any Government agency after its release from Customs custody, pursuant to a law or regulation in force on the date of entry or withdrawal for consumption, may be

destroyed under Government supervision. In such case, the destroyed merchandise is exempt from duty and any duties collected thereon shall be refunded. In lieu of destruction, the merchandise may be exported under Customs supervision in accordance with § 158.45(c).

(Sec. 558(a), 46 Stat. 744, as amended; 19 U.S.C. 1558(a))

#### § 158.42 Abandonment by importer within 30 days after entry.

Allowance in duties for merchandise abandoned to the Government in accordance with section 506(1), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1506(1)), shall be subject to the following conditions:

(a) *Minimum quantity to be abandoned.* The merchandise being abandoned shall represent 5 percent or more of the total value of all the merchandise of the same class or kind entered in the invoice in which the merchandise being abandoned appears.

(b) *Application within 30 days.* The importer shall file written notice of abandonment with the director of the port where the entry was filed within 30 days after the date of entry, or, in the case of examination packages, within 30 days after release, whether or not delivery is taken by the importer immediately after entry or release as the case may be.

(c) *Delivery of merchandise.* Within the 30-day period set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, the importer shall deliver the abandoned merchandise to such place as the port director specifies, unless the port director is satisfied that the merchandise is so far destroyed as to be nondeliverable.

(d) *Identification of merchandise.* The importer shall identify the abandoned merchandise with that described in the invoice used in making entry to the satisfaction of the port director, who shall make such examination as may be necessary to verify such identification.

(e) *Segregation and repacking.* When repacking is necessary to segregate the abandoned merchandise from the remainder of the shipment, such repacking shall be done at the expense of the

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importer and under Customs supervision.

(Sec. 506, 46 Stat. 732, as amended; 19 U.S.C. 1506)

### § 158.43 Abandonment or destruction of merchandise in bond.

Allowance in duties for merchandise entered under bond destroyed under section 557(c), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1557(c)), or for merchandise in bonded warehouse abandoned to the Government under section 563(b), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1563(b)), shall be subject to the following conditions:

(a) *Application by importer.* The importer shall file an application for abandonment or destruction of merchandise in bond with the port director on Customs Form 3499, with the title modified to read "Application and Permit to Abandon (or Destroy) Goods in Bond." When an application is for permission to destroy, the proposed method of destruction shall be stated in the application and be subject to the approval of the port director.

(b) *Concurrence of warehouse proprietor.* An application to abandon or destroy warehoused merchandise shall not be approved unless concurred in by the warehouse proprietor.

(c) *Abandonment—(1) Costs.* When in the opinion of the port director the abandonment of merchandise under section 563(b), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1563(b)), will involve any expense or cost to the Government, or if the merchandise is worthless or unsalable, or cannot be sold for a sum sufficient to pay the expenses of sale, such abandonment shall not be permitted unless the importer deposits a sum which in the opinion of the port director will be sufficient to save the Government harmless from any expense or cost resulting from such abandonment. The sum so advanced shall be placed in a special deposit account and expended to cover the cost of destruction or to meet any deficit should the merchandise be sold and the proceeds of sale be less than the expenses of such sale. After meeting such expenses or deficit, any balance remaining shall be refunded to the importer. However, the applicant may elect to destroy such merchandise under Customs su-

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pervision pursuant to the provisions of section 557(c), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1557(c)).

(2) *Time period.* The importer may abandon his warehoused merchandise voluntarily to the Government within 3 years from the date of importation.

(d) *Destruction—(1) Costs.* Destruction of merchandise under section 557(c), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1557(c)), shall be at the expense of the importer.

(2) *Time period.* The importer may request destruction of his warehoused merchandise within 5 years from the date of importation.

(e) *Action by port director.* When the conditions set forth in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section are met, the port director may grant applications and make an allowance in duties for the merchandise abandoned or destroyed. In any case where doubt exists, the matter shall be referred to the Commissioner of Customs.

(Secs. 557, 563, 46 Stat. 744, as amended, 746, as amended; 19 U.S.C. 1557, 1563)

[T.D. 72-258, 37 FR 20171, Sept. 27, 1972, as amended by T.D. 79-221, 44 FR 46829, Aug. 9, 1979]

### § 158.44 Disposition of abandoned merchandise.

(a) *General conditions.* The disposition of merchandise abandoned to the Government pursuant to § 158.42 or § 158.43, and not retained for official use, shall be governed by the regulations of the General Services Administration applicable to the United States Customs Service.

(b) *Sale of merchandise.* If the merchandise is cleared for sale, it shall be sold in accordance with the applicable provisions of part 127 of this chapter, unless it is worthless or it appears probable that the expenses of sale will exceed the proceeds. If the merchandise is sold, no part of the proceeds shall be returned to the importer.

(c) *Disposition of worthless merchandise.* If the merchandise or any part thereof is worthless or it appears probable that the expenses of its sale will exceed the proceeds, it shall be destroyed or otherwise disposed of as the port director shall specify. The port director shall insure that such merchandise is destroyed or removed from the

control of the importer to avoid the possibility of any part of the same merchandise being made the subject of another application.

(Secs. 506(1), 563(b), 46 Stat. 732, as amended, 746, as amended; 19 U.S.C. 1506(1), 1563(b) R.S. 251, as amended, sec. 624, 46 Stat. 759 (19 U.S.C. 66, 1624))

[T.D. 72-258, 37 FR 20171, Sept. 27, 1972, as amended by T.D. 77-12, 41 FR 56629, Dec. 29, 1976]

#### § 158.45 Exportation of merchandise.

(a) *From continuous Customs custody.* Merchandise in Customs custody for which entry has not been completed and merchandise which has remained in continuous Customs custody that is covered by a liquidated or unliquidated consumption entry may be exported under Customs supervision in accordance with §§ 18.25 through 18.27 of this chapter, with refund of any duties that have been paid.

(b) *After release from Customs custody.* Except as provided for in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section, no refund or other allowance in duties shall be made because of the exportation of merchandise after its release from Customs custody unless a drawback of duties is expressly provided for by law (see part 191 of this chapter).

(c) *Prohibited merchandise.* If merchandise has been regularly entered or withdrawn for consumption in good faith and is thereafter found to be prohibited entry under any law of the United States, it may be exported under Customs supervision in accordance with §§ 18.25 through 18.27 of this chapter, with refund of any duties that have been paid. In lieu of exportation, the merchandise may be destroyed in accordance with § 158.41.

(d) *Not legally marked merchandise.* When merchandise found to be not legally marked is exported or destroyed under Customs supervision after once having been released from Customs custody, as provided for in section 304(f), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1304(f)), such exportation or destruction shall not exempt such mer-

chandise from the payment of duties other than the marking duties.

(Sec. 558, 46 Stat. 744, as amended; 19 U.S.C. 1558; R.S. 251, as amended, sec. 624, 46 Stat. 759 (19 U.S.C. 66, 1624))

[T.D. 72-258, 37 FR 20171, Sept. 27, 1972, as amended by T.D. 83-212, 48 FR 46771, Oct. 14, 1983; T.D. 90-51, 55 FR 28191, July 10, 1990]

## PART 159—LIQUIDATION OF DUTIES

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