

(c) **DECISION OF SECRETARY NOT REVIEWABLE.**—The decision of the Secretary that a loss, destruction, or damage has occurred or that a shipment was made substantially in accordance with regulations is final and conclusive and is not subject to review by any other officer of the Government.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1281; Pub. L. 108–271, § 8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
17304(a), (b)(1).	40:723 (1st sentence).	July 8, 1937, ch. 444, § 3 (1st sentence, 2d sentence words before 2d proviso), 50 Stat. 479.
17304(b)(2) ..	40:723 (2d sentence 1st proviso).	
17304(c)	40:723 (2d sentence words before 1st proviso).	

In subsection (c), the words “Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary” are omitted as unnecessary.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (b)(2)(A). Pub. L. 108–271 substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office”.

§ 17305. Replacing lost, destroyed, or damaged stamps, securities, obligations, or money

Stamps, securities, or other obligations of the Federal Government, or money lost, destroyed, or damaged while in the custody or possession of, or charged to, the United States Postal Service while it is acting as agent for, or on behalf of, the Secretary of the Treasury for the sale of the stamps, securities, or obligations and for the collection of the money, shall be replaced out of the fund described in section 17303 of this title under regulations the Secretary may prescribe, regardless of how the loss, destruction, or damage occurs.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1282.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
17305	40:724.	July 8, 1937, ch. 444, § 3a, as added Aug. 10, 1939, ch. 665, § 2, 53 Stat. 1358; Pub. L. 91–375, § 6(m)(5), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 783.

The words “occurring heretofore or hereafter, but not prior to February 4, 1935” are omitted as obsolete. The words “United States Postal Service” are substituted for “Post Office Department or Postal Service” in section 3a of the Government Losses in Shipment Act (ch. 444), as added by section 2 of the Act of August 10, 1939 (ch. 665, 53 Stat. 1358), because of sections 4(a) and 6(o) of the Postal Reorganization Act (Public Law 91–375, 84 Stat. 773, 783). The words “Secretary of the Treasury” are substituted for “Treasury Department” because of 31:301(b).

§ 17306. Agreements of indemnity

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “Federal Government” includes wholly owned Government corporations, and officers and em-

ployees of the Government or its executive departments, independent establishments, and agencies while acting in their official capacity.

(b) **AUTHORITY TO MAKE AGREEMENT.**—The Secretary of the Treasury may make and deliver, on behalf of the Federal Government, a binding agreement of indemnity the Secretary considers necessary and proper to enable the Government to obtain the replacement of any instrument or document—

(1) received by the Government or an agent of the Government in the agent’s official capacity; and

(2) which, after having been received, is lost, destroyed, or so mutilated as to impair its value.

(c) **WHEN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOT OBLIGATED.**—The Government is not obligated under an agreement of indemnity if the obligee named in the agreement makes a payment or delivery not required by law on the original of the instrument or document covered by the agreement.

(d) **USE OF FUND FOR THE PAYMENT OF GOVERNMENT LOSSES IN SHIPMENT.**—The fund described in section 17303 of this title is available to pay any obligation arising out of an agreement the Secretary makes under this section.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1282.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
17306(a)	40:729(a) (last sentence).	July 8, 1937, ch. 444, § 7(a) (last sentence), 50 Stat. 480; Aug. 10, 1939, ch. 665, § 3, 53 Stat. 1359.
17306(b)	40:725 (1st sentence words before proviso).	July 8, 1937, ch. 444, § 3b, as added Aug. 10, 1939, ch. 665, § 2, 53 Stat. 1359.
17306(c)	40:725 (1st sentence proviso).	
17306(d)	40:725 (last sentence).	

§ 17307. Purchase of insurance

An executive department, independent establishment, agency, wholly owned Government corporation, officer, or employee may expend money, or incur an obligation, for insurance, or for the payment of premiums on insurance, against loss, destruction, or damage in the shipment of valuables only as specifically authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary may give the authorization if the Secretary finds that the risk of loss, destruction, or damage in the shipment cannot be guarded against adequately by the facilities of the Federal Government or that adequate replacement cannot be provided under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1282.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
17307	40:726.	July 8, 1937, ch. 444, § 4, 50 Stat. 480.

The words “On and after the effective date of the regulations prescribed under section 721 of this title” are omitted as obsolete. The words “the circumstances are such that” are omitted as unnecessary.