

§ 751.12 Computation of award.

The Judge Advocate General will periodically publish an Allowance List-Depreciation Guide specifying rates of depreciation and maximum payments applicable to categories of property. The Allowance List-Depreciation Guide will be binding on all DON claims personnel. The value of the loss is determined and adjusted to reflect payments, repairs, or replacement by carriers or insurers, or lost potential insurance or carrier recoveries.

(a) *Repair of items.* For items that can be economically repaired, the cost of repair or an appropriate loss in value is the measure of the loss. The cost of repair may be the actual cost, as demonstrated by a paid bill, or reasonable estimated costs, as demonstrated by an estimate of repair prepared by a person in the business of repairing that type of property.

(1) *Loss of value (LOV)*—(i) *Minor damage not worth repairing.* An LOV, rather than replacement cost, should be awarded when an item suffers minor damage that is not economical to repair but the item remains useful for its intended purpose. An LOV is particularly appropriate when the item is not of great value and has preexisting damage (PED). An LOV is also appropriate to compensate claimants for minor damage, such as a chip or surface crack to a figure or knickknack. For example, if an inexpensive, fiberboard coffee table with extensive PED is scratched, repair of the scratch would exceed the value of the table. Under the circumstances, LOV is appropriate.

(ii) *Damage to upholstered furniture.* If damage can be repaired imperceptibly by cleaning or reweaving, the claimant is only entitled to repair cost. If repairs would be somewhat noticeable but the damage is to an area not normally seen, repair costs plus an LOV would be appropriate. Alternatively, if repairs would be somewhat noticeable but the item is of no great value and has already suffered PED, repair costs and LOV would be appropriate even if the damage is in an obvious area. If, however, repairs would be so noticeable as to destroy the usefulness of the item, the item should be reupholstered or replaced. What is noticeable will depend on the nature and value of the

item, and the nature of the damage, and claims personnel should exercise sound judgment to avoid being too lenient or too harsh.

(iii) *Cosmetic damage to nondecorative items.* LOV should also be awarded to compensate claimants for cosmetic damage to items that were not purchased for purposes of display or decoration. For example, the casing of a washing machine is dented. The washing machine is not decorative in nature and still functions perfectly. An LOV, rather than replacement of the washing machine or the casing, is the appropriate measure of the claimant's loss.

(2) *PED to repairable items.* PED is damage to an item that predates the incident giving rise to a claim. PED is most commonly identified by the use of symbols on household goods shipment inventories. Whenever PED is listed on an inventory, claims personnel must determine whether the PED did in fact exist and whether the cost of repairing the item includes repairing PED. The fact that a claimant signed the inventory that listed PED is conclusive evidence that PED did exist unless the member has taken written exceptions on the inventory to the carrier's description of PED. These findings are essential for recovery purposes. Often inspecting the item or calling the repairman who prepared the estimate is the only way to make an effective determination.

(i) *Estimates that do not include repair of PED.* If the estimate does not include repair of PED, even if PED is listed on the inventory, no deduction should be made. This fact should be recorded on the chronology sheet and on carrier recovery documents.

(ii) *Estimates that include repair of PED.* If repair of PED is included in the estimate, the percentage attributable to repair of PED is deducted.

(3) *Mechanical defects.* The Personnel Claims Act only provides compensation for losses incurred incident to service. Damage resulting from a manufacturer's defect or from normal wear and tear is not compensable. Damage to the engine or transmission of an old vehicle during shipment is probably due to a mechanical defect. Internal damage to appliances, such as old televisions,

is also often due to a mechanical defect, particularly when there is no external damage to the item. Claims for internal damage to small appliances that are not normally repaired, such as toasters or hair dryers, should be assessed based on damage to other items in the carton and the shipment, the age of the item, the honesty of the claimant, and whether there are loose parts inside. If the evidence suggests rough handling caused the damage, a claim for the item should be paid. Internal damage to larger items such as televisions or stereos should be evaluated by a repairman. Evidence that suggests rough handling, such as smashed boards, provides a basis for payment. Evidence that suggests a fault in the item, such as burned-out circuits, does not. Deterioration because an item in storage was not used for a long time, rather than because the item was mishandled or the conditions of storage were improper, is also considered due to a mechanical defect.

(4) *Wrinkled clothing.* Clothing wrinkled in shipment presents special problems. Normally, unless the wrinkling is so severe as to amount to actual damage, the cost to press wrinkles out of clothing after a move is not compensable. The mere fact that clothing was "wadded up" or "used as packing material" is not in itself sufficient. The wrinkling must be such that professional pressing is necessary to make the clothing usable. This determination will depend on the wrinkling and the nature of the material.

(5) *Wet and mildewed items.* A claimant has a duty to mitigate damages by drying wet items to prevent further deterioration. Items that have been wet are not necessarily damaged and claimants who throw them away have difficulty substantiating that a loss has occurred. Although a deeply seated mildew infestation is almost impossible to remove completely, items lightly infested can often be cleaned.

(b) *Replacement of items.* A claimant is entitled to the value of missing and destroyed items. An item that has sustained damage is considered destroyed if it is no longer useful for its intended purpose and the cost of repairing it exceeds its value. Value is measured in the following ways:

(1) *Similar used items.* If there is a regular market for used items of that particular type, the loss may be measured by the cost of a similar item of similar age. Prices obtained from industry guides or estimates from dealers in this type of property are acceptable to establish value. There is a regular market on used cars and the value of a used automobile is always measured according to the N.A.D.A. Official Car Guide rather than the depreciated replacement cost. Similarly, the Mobile Home Manufactured Housing Replacement Guide may be used to value a destroyed mobile home. Where there is no regular market in a particular type of used item, however, estimates from dealers in "collector's items" should be avoided.

(2) *Depreciated replacement cost.* This is the normal measure of a claimant's loss. A catalog or store price for a new item similar in size and quality is depreciated using the Allowance List-Depreciation Guide to reflect wear and tear on the missing or destroyed item. The replacement cost for identical items—particularly decorative items—should be used whenever the item is readily available in the local area, but a claimant who is eligible to use the Navy Exchange (NEX) and the NEX Mail Order Catalog should not be allowed a higher replacement cost of an item, such as a television, from a specialty store when the NEX carries an item comparable in size, quality, and features from another manufacturer.

(3) *"Fair and reasonable" (F&R) awards.* A fair and reasonable award should be used sparingly when other measures would compensate the claimant appropriately. Overuse of such awards impedes carrier recovery and "F&R" should never be used when a more precise measure of damages is available. An F&R award for a missing or destroyed item should reflect the value of an item similar in quality, description, age, condition, and function to the greatest extent possible. An F&R award for a damaged item should reflect either the amount a firm would charge for repair or the reduced value to the greatest extent possible. Whenever such an award is made, the basis for the award should be explained on the chronology sheet, in the comments

block of DD Form 1844 (List of Property), or in a separate memorandum. A fair and reasonable award may be considered in the following instances:

(i) The item is obsolete and a simple deduction of a percentage for obsolescence is not appropriate.

(ii) The claimant cannot replace the item in the local area.

(iii) The claimant cannot replace the item at any cost.

(iv) Repair costs or replacement costs are excessive for the item and an LOV is not appropriate.

(v) The claimant has substantiated a loss in some amount but has failed to substantiate a loss in the amount claimed.

(c) *Depreciation.* The Personnel Claims Act is only intended to compensate claimants for the fair market value of their loss. Except in unusual cases, a used item that has been lost or destroyed is worth less than a new item of the same type. The price of a new replacement item must be depreciated to award the claimant the value of the lost or destroyed item. Average yearly and flat rates of depreciation have been established to determine the fair value of used property in various categories. These rates are listed in the Allowance-List Depreciation Guide. The listed depreciation rate should be adjusted if an item has been subjected to greater or lesser wear and tear than normal or if the replacement cost the claimant provides is for a used item rather than a new one. Yearly depreciation is not taken during periods of storage and normally no depreciation is taken on repair costs or on replacement cost for items less than 6 months old, excluding the month of purchase and the month the claim accrued (but see § 751.12(c)(3)).

(1) *Depreciating replacement parts.* No depreciation should be taken on replacement parts for damaged items unless these are parts separately purchased or normally replaced during the useful life of these items. The replacement cost for these latter items should be depreciated. For example, the glass top to a table is not normally replaced during the useful life of the table and should not be depreciated.

(2) *Depreciating fabric for reupholstery.* Fabric is normally replaced during the

useful life of upholstered furniture. When upholstered furniture is reupholstered because the damage is too severe to be repaired and an LOV is not appropriate, the cost of new fabric is depreciated at a rate of 5 percent per year. If the item has been reupholstered since it was purchased, depreciation is measured from the date the item was last reupholstered, rather than from the date the item was originally purchased. Labor costs are allowed as claimed. If the estimate does not list separate costs for fabric and labor, the labor costs may be assumed to be 50 percent of the total bill.

(3) *Rapidly depreciating items.* Tires, most clothing items, and most toys rapidly lose their value, as the high depreciation rate for these items reflects. Depreciation should be taken on such items even when they are less than 6 months old. As a rule of thumb, half of the normal yearly or flat rate depreciation should be taken on such items when they are between 3 and 6 months old at the time of loss.

(4) *Obsolescence.* Even though depreciation is not taken during periods of storage, obsolescence should be claimed on those items that have lost value because of changes in style or technological innovations.

(5) *Military uniforms.* Normally, no depreciation should be taken on military uniforms. Depreciation, however, should be taken on military uniform items that are being phased out or that belong to persons separating from the service. Socks and underwear are not considered military uniform items.

(d) *Salvage value.* Whenever a claimant has been fully compensated for a destroyed item that still has some value, the claimant has the option of either retaining the item and having the claims office deduct an amount for the salvage value, or turning the item over to the Government or to the carrier if the carrier will fully reimburse the Government.

(1) *Turn-in to the Government.* On all claims, except CONUS domestic shipments, if the claimant does not choose to retain the items and accepts a reduction in the amount paid on the claim for salvage value, the claims office will require the claimant to turn them into a disposal unit designated by

the Personal Property Office. Normally, the amount that the Government may obtain from selling such items is very low. If the claims office determines that the salvage value is less than \$25.00, the claimant may be advised to dispose of the items by other means, either by throwing the item away or by turning it over to a charitable organization. Claimants may also be directed to make alternative disposition of items that have been refused by the designated disposal unit. This alternate disposition must be noted on the chronology sheet that is kept as part of the claims file. Claims personnel will not divert such items to personal use or use them to furnish Government offices. In determining whether an item has salvage value, the size of the item and the distance the claimant must travel to turn it in should be considered. A claimant must make his own arrangements to transport salvageable items prior to payment. Claims personnel should ask the claimant's command to make transportation available to assist the claimant in appropriate cases, particularly when the item is large or bulky. Sound discretion prohibits requiring a claimant living far from a designated disposal unit to turn in an item of relatively slight value.

(2) *Turn-in to the carrier.* On CONUS domestic shipments, the carrier may choose to pick up items for which it will fully reimburse the Government. Pursuant to a Joint Military-Industry Memorandum on Salvage, items that are hazardous to keep around, such as mildewed items or broken glass (except items such as figurines and crystal with a per item value of more than \$50.00), may be disposed of as the claimant chooses. Claimants must retain other items for a maximum of 120 days from the date of delivery to allow the carrier to pick them up. Pursuant to this memorandum of understanding, the carrier has until the end of the inspection period or 30 days after receipt of the demand, whichever is greater, to identify such items. Claims offices must identify files in which the carrier is entitled to salvage and must process these claims for recovery action within 30 days so that the claimant does not dispose of salvageable items before the

end of the period allotted for carrier pick-up.

(3) *Maximum allowances.* If the claimant will not be fully compensated for an item because a maximum allowance is applied, he will not be required to turn in the item.

(e) *Standard abbreviations.* The claims examiner's intent should be clear and unmistakable to anyone reviewing the remarks section of DD Form 1844. The following standardized abbreviations are used in completing the remarks section. Other abbreviations should not be used. Whenever one or more of these abbreviations will not adequately explain how the claimant has been compensated, a brief explanation should be inserted in the remarks section, in the comments section on the bottom of DD Form 1844, or on the chronology sheet that is kept in each claims file.

(1) *AC: Amount claimed.* The amount claimed was awarded to the claimant. This abbreviation is not used if the claimant has presented an estimate of repair.

(2) *AGC: Agreed cost of repairs.* The claimant did not present an estimate but instead, after discussing the matter with claims personnel, entered an amount that represents the claimant's guess as to how much it would cost to repair the damaged item. The claims office may accept this amount as a fair estimation of the cost of repair based on the amount of damage, the value of the item, and the cost of similar repairs in the area. A claimant may be allowed up to \$50.00 as an AGC without an inspection and between \$50.00 and \$100.00 if claims personnel have inspected the item. The use of AGC is an integral part of small claims procedures.

(3) *CR: Carrier recovery.* The claimant was paid this amount by the carrier for the item. The payment is recorded in the remarks column, and the total carrier payment is deducted at the bottom of DD Form 1844 in the same manner as insurance recovery.

(4) *D: Depreciation.* Yearly depreciation was taken on the destroyed or missing item in accordance with the appropriate depreciation guide in effect at the time of the loss. Deviations from standard rates must be explained.

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(5) *DV: Depreciated value.* A claimant's repair costs exceeded the value of the item, so the depreciated value was awarded instead. Whenever a claimant claims a repair cost that is very high, relative to the age and probable replacement cost, the replacement cost should be obtained and the depreciated value determined.

(6) *ER: Estimate of repair.* The claimant provided an estimate of repair that was used to value the loss. If multiple estimates were provided, they should be numbered and referred to as exhibits.

(7) *EX: Exhibit.* When numerous documents have been provided to substantiate a claim, they should be numbered and referred to as exhibits.

(8) *FR: Flat rate depreciation.* Flat rate depreciation was taken on an item in accordance with the Depreciation Guide in effect at the time of the loss. Deviations from the normal rate must be explained.

(9) *F&R: Fair and reasonable.* A fair and reasonable award was made (see §751.12(b)(3)).

(10) *LOV: Loss of value.* An LOV was awarded (see §751.5(a)(1)).

(11) *MA: Maximum allowance.* The adjudicated value, listed in the "Amount Allowed" column, exceeds a maximum allowance. The amount in excess of the maximum allowance is subtracted at the bottom of the DD Form 1844.

(12) *N/P: Not payable.* The item is not payable. The reason for this comment should be noted (*i.e.*, "not substantiated").

(13) *OBS: Obsolescence.* A percentage was deducted for obsolescence.

(14) *PCR: Lost potential carrier recovery.* A deduction was made for lost PCR.

(15) *PED: Preexisting damage.* A deduction was made for PED.

(16) *PP: Purchase price.* The purchase price was used to value the loss. Normally, the purchase price is not an adequate measure of the claimant's loss. If, however, the claimant used the replacement cost of a dissimilar item or otherwise failed to substantiate the replacement cost, a recent purchase price may be used at the discretion of claims personnel, if a true replacement cost is not available.

(17) *NEX: Navy Exchange replacement cost.* A replacement from the NEX was used.

(18) *RC: Replacement cost.* A replacement cost was used. The store or catalog from which the replacement cost was taken should be listed.

(19) *SV/N: Item has no salvage value.* A destroyed item was determined to have no salvage value.

(20) *SV/R: Salvage value, item retained.* A destroyed item was determined to have salvage value and the claimant chose to keep the item. Accordingly, a deduction was made for the salvage value.

(21) *SV/T: Salvage value, item turned in.* A destroyed item was determined to have salvage value and the claimant chose not to keep the item. If the item is part of a CONUS domestic shipment, the claimant must keep it for the carrier to pick up. Otherwise, the claimant must turn the item in prior to payment on the claim.

(f) *Sets.* Normally, when component parts of a set are missing or destroyed, the claimant is only entitled to the replacement cost of the missing or destroyed components. In some instances, however, a claimant would be entitled to replacement of the entire set or to an additional LOV. Some claimants will assert that all of the items in a room are part of a set. Pieces sold separately, however, are ordinarily not considered parts of a set, and pieces that merely complement other items, such as a loveseat purchased to complement a particular hutch, are never considered part of a set. When a component part of a set is missing or destroyed and cannot be replaced with a matching item, or has to be repaired so that it no longer matches other component parts of the set, the following rules apply:

(1) *The set is no longer useful for its intended purpose.* When a set is no longer useful for its intended purpose because component parts are missing or destroyed the entire set may be replaced. Note that several firms will match discontinued sets of china and crystal and that replacement of the set is not authorized if replacement items can be thus obtained. Generally, with china and crystal the value of the set as a whole is not destroyed unless more

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than 25 percent of the place settings are unusable. Exceptions may be made if the claimant can demonstrate a particular need for a certain number of place settings because of family size or social obligations. In those rare instances when an entire set is replaced, the claimant will be required to turn in undamaged pieces.

(2) *The set is still useful for its intended purpose.* When missing pieces cannot be matched and there is measurable decrease in the value of the set, but the set is still useful for its intended purpose, the claimant is awarded the value of the missing pieces plus an amount for the diminution in value of the set as a whole. The amount awarded as an LOV will vary depending on the exact circumstances.

(3) *Mattresses and upholstered furniture are recovered.* A mattress and box spring set is covered during normal use. Such sets are still useful for their intended purpose if one piece of the set has to be recovered in a different fabric. No award will be made for the undamaged piece. When one piece of a set of upholstered furniture suffers damage that cannot be repaired or recovered in matching fabric, recovering the entire set or recovering the damaged piece plus LOV should be considered. Factors to take into account include the value of the set, PED to the set, the nature of the current damage, and the extent to which the claimant's furniture is already mismatched.

(g) *Mobile homes.* Mobile homes present special problems. Most mobile homes, particularly larger ones, are not built to withstand the stress of multiple long moves. While the Mobile Home One-Time Only rate solicitation program, effective 1 November 1987, may have reduced the incidence of loss and damage by encouraging carriers to use extra axles when necessary, mobile home shipments can result in enormous, uncompensated losses for servicemembers and present unusual difficulties for claims adjudicators. Because the risk is so great, claims offices must coordinate with their servicing transportation offices to ensure both that servicemembers shipping mobile homes are advised of the risk and of their responsibilities, and that the transportation office does not author-

ize shipment of a mobile home that has not been placed in a fit condition to be shipped.

(1) *Transportation counseling prior to shipment.* Servicemembers should be advised of the following:

(i) They are responsible for placing the mobile home and its tires, tubes, frames, and other parts in fit condition to ship and for loading the mobile home to withstand the stresses of normal transportation. They will not be compensated for any damage that results either from a latent defect in the construction of the mobile home (except when the carrier is aware of the defect and the servicemember is not) or from their failure to place the mobile home in fit condition to ship.

(ii) They are responsible for paying for necessary repairs en route. Such repairs can amount to several hundred or even several thousand dollars, and some mobile homes have been left in storage at the servicemember's expense hundreds of miles from destination because the owner could not pay for necessary repairs.

(iii) They are responsible for resealing the roof and weatherproofing the mobile home after delivery. The cost of this is not compensable, nor is any damage caused by the servicemember's failure to have it done.

(iv) They are responsible for removing obstructions, grading the roadway, or otherwise preparing the site to make it accessible for the carrier's equipment at both origin and destination.

(v) Because of the risk that damage will result for which they cannot be compensated, servicemembers should strongly consider purchasing private insurance coverage. A claimant usually must purchase separate insurance for property shipped inside the mobile home and most mobile home carriers will sell some sort of insurance coverage for damage to the mobile home itself. Often, when a mobile home has been moved repeatedly, the risk of uncompensated loss is so high that the servicemember should consider selling the home rather than attempting to ship it.

(2) *Inspection Prior to Shipment.* Transportation personnel should inspect the

home prior to shipment in all instances. All defects should be recorded. In particular:

(i) A mobile home should not be shipped with a servicemember's furniture and other household goods inside. The maximum safe weight of appliances and additional property is very low. An overweight mobile home tends to blow tires and break apart during shipment. Servicemembers should be advised long before shipment that they will have to make other arrangements for shipping such items at their own expense.

(ii) A mobile home should never be shipped with defects in the steel frame or tow hitch.

(iii) The condition of all tires should be checked and recorded. Some carriers submit huge bills for "blown" tires during shipment.

(iv) Structural changes to the interior of the home, particularly those that involve cutting through beams, should be examined closely and a civil engineer should be called in to render an opinion. Frequently, it is not safe to ship mobile homes in which the claimant has altered the interior framing.

(3) *Latent Defects.* Many carriers will attempt to escape liability by attributing all damage to latent manufacturing defects. A loss due to such a defect, like a loss due to any other mechanical defect, is not considered incident to service. When an engineer's report or other evidence shows that damage was indeed caused by a defect rather than by the carrier's failure to take the necessary care, the following rules apply:

(i) If both the carrier and the claimant knew or should have known of the defect, and if the claimant took no corrective action and had the mobile home shipped anyway, the claim is not payable.

(ii) If the carrier knew or should have known of the defect, and the claimant could not reasonably have been expected to know of it, the claim is payable and liability should be pursued against the carrier.

(iii) If neither the claimant nor the carrier could reasonably be expected to know of the defect, the claim is not payable.

(4) *Substantiation of a claim.* Prior to adjudication of such claims, the mobile home should be inspected and the following evidence obtained, if possible:

(i) *DD Form 1800 (Mobile Home Shipment Inspection at Destination).* This document shows the condition of the home at origin prior to shipment. This document is prepared by the Transportation Office (TO) and is signed by the servicemember, the carrier's representative, and the Government inspector. It is vital and a claim should not be paid without it. At destination, damages noted at delivery should be annotated and the form dated and signed by the driver and the servicemember. Damages may be listed on this form or on the DD Form 1840 (Joint Statement of Loss or Damage at Delivery).

(ii) *DD Form 1863 (Accessorial Services-Mobile Home).* For shipments after 1 November 1987, DD Form 1863 lists all services the carrier is required to provide, including line-haul, payment of tolls, overdimension charges, permits and licenses, provision of anti-sway devices, axles with wheels and tires, temporary lights, and escort services. All costs and services may not appear on the GBL. For shipments prior to 1 November 1987, damages may also be listed on this form.

(iii) *DD Form 1840/1840R.* Beginning 1 November 1987, later-discovered damages must be listed on DD Form 1840R and dispatched to the carrier within 75 days of delivery. Timely notice on mobile home shipments differs slightly from such notice on other shipments. Item 306 of the carrier's rate solicitation provides that "upon delivery by the carrier, all loss of or damage to the mobile home shall be noted on the delivery document, the inventory form, the DD Form 1800, and/or the DD Form 1840. Late discovered loss or damage, including personal property within the mobile home, will be noted on the DD Form 1840R not later than 75 days following delivery and shall be accepted by the carrier as overcoming the presumption of correctness of delivery receipt."

(iv) *DD Form 1412 (Inventory of Items Shipped in Housetrailer).* Prior to 1 November 1987, the servicemember prepared DD Form 1412. After 1 November 1987, the carrier is required to prepare

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this in coordination with the servicemember.

(v) *DD Form 1841*. If a Government representative does not inspect the mobile home at delivery, an inspection should be requested.

(vi) *Driver's statement*. The mobile home carrier should be requested to provide (within 14 days) a statement from the driver of the towing vehicle explaining the circumstances surrounding the damage as well as detailed travel particulars. If the mobile home carrier does not respond, the file should be so annotated. Such statements are often self-serving and should be reviewed critically to determine whether the carrier is attributing damage to a latent defect.

(vii) *Owner's statement*. The claimant should provide a statement concerning the age of the mobile home, the date and place purchased, any prior damage or repairs, all prior moves, and prior claims.

(viii) *Estimates of repair*. When possible, the claimant should obtain two estimates of repair from firms in the business of repairing, rather than selling, mobile homes. Such estimates should list the approximate value of the home before and after damage, a detailed breakdown of the repairs needed and their cost, and the cause of damage.

(ix) *Engineer's statement*. Where the facts indicate the possibility of a latent defect, the claimant should be assisted in obtaining a statement from a qualified engineer or vehicle maintenance professional with expertise in mobile homes explaining the cause of damage. The claims office should coordinate in advance with facilities engineers or with local reserve units with engineering expertise to provide such inspection where possible.

(5) *Compensable damage*. In adjudicating the claim, the claimant may be paid for loss of or damage to the mobile home except when the damage is due to a latent defect, to the servicemember's failure to place the home in fit condition to ship, or to the servicemember's failure to have the roof resealed. The servicemember may also be compensated for the reasonable cost of repair estimates provided by firms in the business of mobile home repair and of

opinions prepared by qualified engineers. The claimant may not be compensated for services the carrier failed to perform or performed improperly or for other incidental expenses. The claimant should be referred to the transportation office for these. Such services (listed on DD Form 1843 and the GBL correction notice) include:

(i) Escort or pilot services, ferry fees, tolls, permits, overdimension charges, or taxes.

(ii) Storage costs or parking fees en route.

(iii) Expand charges and charges for anti-sway devices, brakes and brake repairs, or adding or replacing axles, tubes, or tires.

(iv) Wrecker service.

(v) Connecting or disconnecting utilities.

(vi) Blocking, unblocking, or removing or installing skirting.

(vii) The cost of separating or reassembling and resealing a double-wide mobile home.

(6) *Carrier liability and attempted waivers*. In the absence of additional coverage, the carrier's maximum liability for personal property shipped with the mobile home is \$250.00. The carrier is fully liable for damages to the mobile home itself. Carriers are also liable for damage caused by third parties with whom they contract, such as wrecker services. Some carriers may still try to obtain waivers, from the servicemember. A waiver signed by the servicemember, however, is not binding on the United States. The Navy is the contracting party and the owner has not authority to sign a waiver agreement or any other document purporting to exempt the carrier from the liability imposed under the GBL.

§ 751.13 Payments and collections.

Payment of approved personnel claims and deposit of checks received from carriers, contractors, insurers, or members will be made by the Navy or Marine Corps disbursing officer serving the adjudicating authority. Payments will be charged to funds made available to the adjudicating authority for this purpose. Credit for collections will be to the accounting data specified in Navy Comptroller Manual section