

agency authorizing the travel or transportation who has knowledge of the facts concerning such usage.

(d) *Required documentation.* Each voucher for reimbursement of expenses for travel in whole or in part via a non-American-flag air or foreign flag ocean carrier, and each bill for payment of transportation services furnished in whole or in part by a non-American-flag air or foreign flag ocean carrier will be supported by the following documentation:

(1) *Required certificate.* The certificate or memorandum required under this part should be substantially as follows:

I certify that it (is) (was) necessary for _____ (name of traveler or agency) to use _____ (foreign-flag vessel(s)) _____ or noncertificated¹ air carrier(s) _____ flight identification No(s), or to transport (personal effects) (freight) between _____ and _____ en route from _____ to _____ on _____ (date) for the following reasons:

 Date _____
 Signature of traveler or authorizing officer _____
 Title or position _____
 Organization _____

(2) *Documentation for passenger and freight transportation by American-flag direct air carriers.* All bills submitted by American-flag direct air carriers for payment for commercial foreign air passenger or freight transportation must contain either: (i) A certification by the carrier that no non-American-flag air carriers were used in the carriage of the passenger or freight or (ii) copies of documents required to be retained by the carrier under 14 CFR part 249 that would indicate which portion of the through movement was performed by American-flag and non-American-flag air carriers, together with the certificate required in paragraph (d)(1) of this section covering such usage.

(3) *Documentation by indirect air carriers.* All bills submitted by indirect air carriers as defined in 14 CFR 296.1 and

297.1 for the payment of transportation charges for the movement of freight by air must be supported by a copy of the air waybill and manifest required to be executed by 14 CFR 296.70 and 297.51.

(e) *Responsibility of carrier to secure certificate.* The certificate or memorandum required under paragraph (d)(1) of this section must be obtained by the ocean or air carrier or freight forwarder and submitted as support in billing charges for transportation services.

(f) *Responsibility of accountable officers.* Certifying officers and military disbursing officers have the responsibility in the first instance of determining the accuracy and acceptability of the certification or memorandum and other documentation required in paragraph (d) of this section which must be attached to bills involving transportation by non-American-flag air carriers and foreign-flag vessels prior to the certification of such bills. When there is doubt as to the acceptability of the certification, accountable officers or the head of the agency involved may request an advance decision by addressing a submission to the Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. General Accounting Office, Washington, DC 20548.

(g) *Responsibility of General Services Administration.* In auditing vouchers for payment of transportation charges to carriers and forwarders, the General Services Administration will ascertain that payments involving the use of a non-American-flag vessel or air carrier are supported by the required certificate or memorandum and documentation required in paragraph (d) of this section justifying such use. When there is doubt as to the accuracy or acceptability of any justification, the matter will be referred to the Comptroller General for decision.

[40 FR 47512, Oct. 9, 1975, as amended at 47 FR 56980, Dec. 22, 1982]

PART 53—REVIEW OF GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION TRANSPORTATION SETTLEMENT ACTIONS

¹Section 401 of Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (49 U.S.C. 1501).

Sec. 53.1 Definitions.

General Accounting Office

§ 56.1

53.2 Actions reviewable by Comptroller General.

53.3 Requests for review.

53.4 Copies to General Services Administration.

AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. 711. Interpret or apply sec. 322, 54 Stat. 955, as amended, 49 U.S.C. 66(b).

SOURCE: 40 FR 47513, Oct. 9, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

§ 53.1 Definitions.

(a) *Claim* means any bill or demand, including submission of voucher or supplemental bill, for payment of charges for transportation and related services by a carrier or forwarder entitled under 49 U.S.C. 66 to payment for such services prior to audit by the General Services Administration.

(b) *Settlement* means any action taken by the General Services Administration in connection with the audit of payments for transportation and related services furnished for the account of the United States that has a dispositive effect, including:

(1) Deduction action (or refund by carrier) in adjustment of asserted transportation overcharges;

(2) Disallowance of a claim, or supplemental bill, for charges for transportation and related services, either in whole or in part;

(3) Any other action that entails finality of administrative consideration.

§ 53.2 Actions reviewable by Comptroller General.

Actions taken by the General Services Administration on a claim by a carrier or freight forwarder entitled under 49 U.S.C. 66 to be paid for transportation services prior to audit that have dispositive effect and constitute a settlement action as defined in § 53.1 will be reviewed by the Comptroller General, provided request for review of such action is made within six months (not including time of war) from the date such action is taken or within the periods of limitation specified in 49 U.S.C. 66(a), whichever is later.

§ 53.3 Requests for review.

Requests for review of settlement actions by the General Services Administration should be addressed to the Comptroller General of the United

States, U.S. General Accounting Office, Washington, D.C. 20548. Each request for review must identify the transaction as to which review is requested by the date the action was taken, the Government bill of lading or Government transportation request number, the carrier's bill number, Government voucher number and date of payment, General Services Administration claim number, or other identifying information, to enable speedy location of the pertinent records. Each request for review should state why the action taken is believed erroneous and specify any factual, technical, or legal basis relied on.

§ 53.4 Copies to General Services Administration.

Review of settlement actions will be expedited if a copy of the document requesting review by the Comptroller General is sent to the General Services Administration to facilitate assembly of the pertinent records.

PART 56—JOINT REGULATIONS FOR ADVANCE PAYMENT OF CHARGES FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FURNISHED THE UNITED STATES

Sec.

56.1 Prescription of standards.

56.2 Payment prior to Government confirmation of satisfactory performance.

56.3 Bonding requirements.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 1(b), 86 Stat. 1163, 1164, as amended by sec. 201, 88 Stat. 1959 (49 U.S.C. 66(c)).

§ 56.1 Prescription of standards.

The regulations in this part are issued jointly by the Comptroller General of the United States and the Secretary of the Treasury under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 66(c) which authorizes payment of charges for transportation services to carriers or forwarders in advance of the completion of services without regard to 31 U.S.C. 3324: *Provided*, The carrier or forwarder has issued the usual ticket, receipt, bill of lading or equivalent document covering the service involved. Regulations, prescribed by the head of an agency in