

§ 89.41

§ 89.41 Notice requirement before offset.

A request for offset from an IRS tax refund will be made only after the Department has made a determination that an amount is owed and past-due and provides the debtor with 60 days written notice. The Department's notice of intention to collect by IRS tax refund offset (Notice of Intent) includes:

- (a) The amount of the debt;
- (b) That unless the debt is repaid within 60 days from the date of the Department's Notice of Intent, the Department will refer the debt to the IRS for offset against any amount due the debtor as a tax refund;
- (c) That the debtor has a right to present information that all or part of the debt is not past-due or legally enforceable; and
- (d) A mailing address for forwarding any written correspondence and a contact name and telephone number for any questions.

§ 89.43 Review within the Department.

(a) *Notification by debtor.* A debtor who receives a Notice of Intent may present, for 60 days from the date of the Notice of Intent, information that all or part of the debt is not past-due or legally enforceable. (However, this does not extend the regulatory period for submitting written statements or for requesting an administrative hearing on the merits of an alleged violation, nor does it extend the period to appeal an assessed civil penalty.) To comply with this procedure, the debtor must:

- (1) Send a written request for a review of the information to the address provided in the notice.
- (2) State in the request the amount disputed and the reasons why the debtor believes that the debt is not past-due or legally enforceable.
- (3) Include in the request any documents which the debtor wishes to be considered or state that additional information will be submitted within the remainder of the 60 day period.

(b) *Submission of information.* The debtor may submit information showing that all or part of the debt is not past-due or not legally enforceable along with the notification required by

49 CFR Subtitle A (10-1-03 Edition)

paragraph (a) of this section. Failure to submit the information within the remainder of the 60 day period will be interpreted as there is no additional information for consideration.

(c) *Review of the information.* The Department considers all available information related to the issue of whether the debt is past-due and the issue of whether the debt is legally enforceable. After a decision has been reached, the Department notifies the debtor whether the Department has sustained, amended, or cancelled its determination that the debt is past-due and legally enforceable.

§ 89.45 Department determination.

(a) Following review of the information, the Department notifies the debtor with a written decision that includes the supporting rationale.

(b) If the Department either sustains or amends its determination, it shall notify the debtor that the debt is being referred to the IRS for offset against the debtor's Federal income tax refund. If the Department determines that there is no legally enforceable debt or that full payment has been made, the case will be closed.

§ 89.47 Stay of offset.

If the debtor timely notifies the Department that he or she is complying with the procedures in § 89.43(a) of this subpart and timely submits additional information in accordance with § 89.43(b) of this subpart, the debt will not be referred to the IRS while the matter is under review by the Department. Referral will not be made until the issuance of a written decision, in accordance with § 89.45 of this subpart, which sustains or amends the Department's original determination.

PART 91—INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION FAIR COMPETITIVE PRACTICES

Sec.

- 91.1 Purpose.
- 91.3 Investigations.
- 91.5 Findings and recommendations.
- 91.7 Determination of compensatory charges.
- 91.9 Distribution of compensatory funds.
- 91.11 Standards.
- 91.13 Refunds.

Office of the Secretary of Transportation

§91.7

AUTHORITY: Secs. 2-3, 88 Stat. 2103, 49 U.S.C. 1159a and 1159b, Pub. L. 93-623.

SOURCE: 41 FR 54770, Dec. 15, 1976, unless otherwise noted.

§91.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to prescribe the Secretary's role in executing his responsibilities under sections 2 and 3 of the International Air Transportation Fair Competitive Practices Act of 1974 to the end that U.S. flag air carriers operating in foreign air transportation are protected from all forms of discrimination or unfair competitive practices and are compensated for excessive or otherwise discriminatory charges levied by foreign governments or other foreign entities for the use of airport or airway property.

§91.3 Investigations.

The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Plans and International Affairs (Assistant Secretary), in coordination with the General Counsel and the Federal Aviation Administrator (Administrator), on complaint of any U.S. flag air carrier or on their own initiative, shall investigate: (a) Instances of alleged excessive or otherwise discriminatory user charges or (b) discriminatory or unfair competitive practices to which U.S. flag air carriers are subjected by a foreign government or other foreign entity. Excessive or otherwise discriminatory charges include, but are not limited to, unreasonable landing fees, unreasonable monopoly ground handling fees and unreasonable air navigation charges. Discriminatory or unfair competitive practices include, but are not limited to, unreasonably differentiated fuel allocations, cargo, charter or currency restrictions and inferior monopoly ground handling services.

§91.5 Findings and recommendations.

(a) Upon finding that a foreign government or entity imposes excessive or otherwise discriminatory charges against U.S. flag air carriers or causes such carriers to be subjected to discriminatory or unfair competitive practices, the Assistant Secretary, in coordination with the General Counsel and the Administrator, shall determine

the extent of the discrimination or unfair competitive practices.

(b) Where the matter involves excessive or otherwise discriminatory charges, the Assistant Secretary shall prepare a report and recommend that the Secretary promptly submit a report of the case to the Secretary of State and the Civil Aeronautics Board in accordance with section 11 of the International Aviation Facilities Act, 49 U.S.C. 1159a.

(c) Where the matter involves discrimination or unfair competitive practices other than user charges, the Assistant Secretary shall prepare a report and recommend that the Secretary take such other action within the jurisdiction of the Department as is appropriate under the circumstances in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 1159b.

(d) If the Secretary determines, after review of the report and recommendations made under paragraph (b) of this section, that unreasonably excessive or otherwise discriminatory charges exist, the Secretary will submit a report on the matter to the Secretary of State and the Chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 1159a.

(e) If the Secretary determines, after review of the report and recommendations made under paragraph (c) of this section, that discriminatory or unfair competitive practices exist, the Secretary will commence all appropriate action within his jurisdiction in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 1159b.

§91.7 Determination of compensatory charges.

(a) Upon indication by the Secretary of State that the excessive or otherwise discriminatory user charges have not been reduced or eliminated, the Secretary will direct the Assistant Secretary to compute the appropriate amount of compensatory charges.

(b) Upon approving the amount of compensatory charges computed under paragraph (a) of this section, the Secretary will notify the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury of his determination.

§91.9

§91.9 Distribution of compensatory funds.

(a) On or after January 1 and July 1 of each year, each U.S. flag air carrier which has been subjected to excessive or otherwise discriminatory charges for which compensatory charges have been collected shall, upon compliance with paragraph (c) of this section, be entitled to pro rata reimbursement for excessive or otherwise discriminatory charges incurred to date, not to exceed the amount of such charges actually paid by that carrier.

(b) The Secretary will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER, at least 30 days before a U.S. flag air carrier becomes entitled to reimbursement, a notice setting forth the procedures to be followed in making claims for reimbursement. This notice will specify the form in which application shall be made and the specific items of proof, if any, to be submitted.

(c) On or after January 1 and July 1 of each year, each U.S. flag carrier claiming a right to reimbursement shall apply for such reimbursement in accordance with the FEDERAL REGISTER notice referred to in paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) The Assistant Secretary shall, on the basis of the application and such other data as may be available, compute the amount to which such carrier is entitled.

(e) Subject to the provisions of §91.13(b), upon approving the computation made by the Assistant Secretary, the Secretary shall issue such certificate as will entitle each such carrier to payment from the account maintained by the Secretary of the Treasury for this purpose.

§91.11 Standards.

(a) To minimize the burden of implementing this part on the United States, on U.S. flag air carriers and on foreign air carriers, estimates and periodic adjustments will be used to determine the amount of discrimination and compensatory charges therefor.

(b) For the purpose of determining the amount of excessive or otherwise discriminatory charges imposed upon U.S. flag air carriers by an entity:

(1) A service or use of airport or airway property includes, but is not lim-

49 CFR Subtitle A (10-1-03 Edition)

ited to, fueling, food service, ticketing, baggage handling, runways, ramps, parking areas, navigational aids, communications facilities or any other service necessary and incidental to the conduct of a flight.

(2) An excessive or otherwise discriminatory charge includes, but is not limited to, a charge substantially above the cost of providing a service or any charge for a service that is substantially inferior to that which the U.S. flag air carrier could have provided for itself, at the same cost, by contract or otherwise (*see also* §91.3).

(c) In determining the amount of compensatory charge:

(1) The total amount of excessive or otherwise discriminatory charges levied against U.S. flag air carriers will be estimated in dollars.

(2) The total volume of operations to the United States by air carriers of the nation concerned will be estimated for the succeeding six-month period.

(3) The total amount of excessive or otherwise discriminatory charges in paragraph (c)(1) of this section will be divided by the total volume of operations in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, and

(4) The quotient thus computed (which may be adjusted to reflect the type of aircraft) will constitute the compensatory charge to be collected as a condition to acceptance of the general declaration at the time of landing or takeoff of such air carriers of the nation concerned.

§91.13 Refunds.

(a) Where, in his discretion, the Secretary finds that good cause has been shown, the Secretary may authorize a refund of collected compensatory charges. For purposes of this section, good cause includes, but is not limited to, an error of fact, a miscalculation, or a determination that an original conclusion of entitlement was insufficient, invalid, erroneous or invalidated by subsequent events.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of §91.9(e) the Secretary may suspend for a reasonable time the issuance of a certificate of entitlement upon a showing by a payor of compensatory charges that there is a substantial likelihood

that the payor will make a showing of good cause under § 91.13(a).

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, the issuance of a certificate of entitlement under § 91.9(e) or the distribution to U.S. flag air carriers of funds collected under this part shall be with prejudice to any claim for refund under this section.

PART 92—RECOVERING DEBTS TO THE UNITED STATES BY SALARY OFFSET

Sec.

- 92.1 Purpose.
- 92.3 Scope.
- 92.5 Definitions.
- 92.7 Notice, hearing, written response and decision.
- 92.9 Exceptions to notice, hearing, written response, and final decision.
- 92.11 Demand for payment.
- 92.13 Request for hearing.
- 92.15 Request for hearing after time expires.
- 92.17 Form of hearings and written decisions.
- 92.19 Obtaining the services of a hearing official.
- 92.21 Deduction from pay.
- 92.23 Collection.
- 92.25 Source of deductions.
- 92.27 Duration of deductions.
- 92.29 Limitation on amount of deductions.
- 92.31 Liquidation from final payment.
- 92.33 Recovery from other payments due a separated employee.
- 92.35 Interest, penalties and administrative costs.
- 92.37 Non-waiver of rights by payment.
- 92.39 Refunds.
- 92.41 Requesting recovery when the Department is not the paying agency.
- 92.43 Requests for recovery when the Department is the paying agency.
- 92.45 Other debt collections.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 5514, as amended; 5 CFR part 550, subpart K; 4 CFR parts 101-105.

SOURCE: 53 FR 4171, Feb. 12, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 92.1 Purpose.

This part implements 5 U.S.C. 5514 (Installment Deduction for Indebtedness to the United States), as amended by the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-365, 96 Stat. 1749, 1751). It supplements 5 CFR part 550, subpart K, and the Federal Claims Collections Standards (4 CFR parts 101-105) issued jointly by the Comptroller General of the

United States and the Attorney General of the United States under 31 U.S.C. 3711(e)(2). It sets forth the procedures by which the Department of Transportation (DOT), including its operating elements (see 49 CFR 1.3):

(a) Collects debts owed to the United States by current and former DOT employees;

(b) Determines and collects interest and other charges on that indebtedness.

(c) Offsets the salary of DOT employees to collect debts owed to the United States by those employees; and,

(d) Obtains salary offset to collect debts owed to the United States by employees of other agencies under programs administered by DOT.

§ 92.3 Scope.

The provisions of this part are applicable to the indebtedness of a current or former employee of DOT incurred under any program administered by DOT. The provisions of this part do not apply to the collection of indebtedness by authority other than 5 U.S.C. 5514.

§ 92.5 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Agency* means an Executive Agency as defined by section 105 of title 5, United States Code, the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Postal Rate Commission, a Military Department as defined by section 102 of title 5, United States Code, an agency or court in the judicial branch, an agency of the legislative branch, and any other independent establishments which are entities of the Federal Government. In DOT each operating element will act for the agency in collecting debts under this rule.

(b) *Creditor agency* means the agency to which the debt is owed.

(c) *Debt* means an amount owed to the United States from sources which include, but are not necessarily limited to, erroneous payments made to employees, overpayments of benefits, salary or other allowances, loans insured or guaranteed by the United States and all other amounts due the United States from fees, leases, rents, royalties, services, sales of real or personal property, overpayments, penalties, damages, interest, fines and forfeitures