

a protest shall commence on the date the protest was in fact filed.

[T.D. 70-181, 35 FR, 13429, Aug. 22, 1970, as amended by T.D. 71-60, 36 FR 3116, Feb. 18, 1971]

§ 174.3 Power of attorney to file protest.

(a) *When required.* When a protest is filed by a person acting as agent or attorney in fact for the principal, other than an attorney at law or a customhouse broker or his authorized employee acting in his behalf, there shall have been filed or shall be filed with the protest a power of attorney which either specifically authorizes such agent to make, sign, and file the protest or grants unlimited authority to such agent. No power of attorney to file a protest shall be required in the following cases:

(1) *Attorney at law.* When the protest is filed by an attorney at law as agent or attorney for the principal, the signing of the protest as agent or attorney for the principal by the attorney at law shall be considered a declaration by him that he is currently a member in good standing of the highest court of a State, possession, territory, commonwealth, or the District of Columbia, and has been authorized to sign and file the protest for the principal.

(2) *Customhouse broker or his employee.* When a protest is filed by a customhouse broker, or an authorized employee acting in his behalf, as agent or attorney in fact for the principal, the signing of the protest by the customhouse broker or an authorized employee in his behalf shall be considered a declaration by the broker that he or the employee signing in his behalf, is authorized to sign and file the protest for the principal. The customhouse broker shall have, however, a general power of attorney to transact Customs business for the principal on Customs Form 5291.

(b) *Execution of power of attorney—(1) Corporation.* A corporate power of attorney to file protests shall be signed by a duly authorized officer or employee of the corporation. If the port director is otherwise satisfied as to the authority of such corporate officer or employee to grant such power of attorney, compliance with the requirements

of § 141.37 of this chapter may be waived with respect to such power.

(2) *Partnership.* A partnership power of attorney to file protests may be signed by one member in the name of the partnership, provided the power recites the name of all the members.

(c) *Duration.* Powers of attorney issued by a partnership shall be limited to a period not to exceed 2 years from the date of receipt thereof by the port director. All other powers of attorney may be granted for an unlimited period.

(d) *Revocation.* Any power of attorney shall be subject to revocation at any time by written notice given to and received by the port director.

(Secs. 514, 515, 46 Stat. 734, as amended; 19 U.S.C. 1514, 1515)

[T.D. 70-181, 35 FR 13429, Aug. 22, 1970, as amended by T.D. 70-224, 35 FR 16243, Oct. 16, 1970; T.D. 73-175, 38 FR 17487, July 2, 1973]

Subpart B—Protests

§ 174.11 Matters subject to protest.

The following decisions of the port director, including the legality of all orders and findings entering into the same, may be protested under the provisions of section 514, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1514):

(a) The appraised value of merchandise;

(b) The classification and rate and amount of duties chargeable;

(c) All charges or exactions of whatever character including the accrual of interest within the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Treasury;

(d) The exclusion of merchandise from entry or delivery under any provision of the Customs laws;

(e) The liquidation or reliquidation of an entry, or any modification thereof;

(f) The refusal to pay a claim for drawback; and

(g) The refusal to reliquidate an entry under section 520(c), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1520(c)).

[T.D. 70-181, 35 FR 13429, Aug. 22, 1970, as amended by T.D. 99-75, 64 FR 56441, Oct. 20, 1999]

§ 174.12 Filing of protests.

(a) *By whom filed.* Protests may be filed by:

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(1) The importer or consignee shown on the entry papers, or their sureties;

(2) Any person paying or receiving a refund of any charge or exaction;

(3) Any person seeking entry or delivery;

(4) Any person filing a claim for drawback;

(5) With respect to a determination of origin under subpart G of part 181 of this chapter, any exporter or producer of the merchandise subject to that determination, if the exporter or producer completed and signed a Certificate of Origin covering the merchandise as provided for in § 181.11(a) of this chapter; or

(6) Any authorized agent of any of the persons described in paragraphs (a) (1) through (5) of this section, subject to the provisions of § 174.3.

(b) *Form and number of copies.* Protests against decisions of a port director shall be filed in quadruplicate on Customs Form 19 or a form of the same size clearly labeled "Protest" and setting forth the same content in its entirety, in the same order, addressed to the port director. All schedules or other attachments to a protest (other than samples or similar exhibits) shall also be filed in quadruplicate.

(c) *Identity of filer.* The identity of the person filing the protest or his agent, or attorney shall be noted on the protest. This may be accomplished through a signature which is handwritten in ink, stamped, typed, facsimile, telefax, or by electronic certification in ACS. If the person filing the protest is not the importer of record or consignee, the filer shall include his address and importer number, if any.

(d) *Place of filing.* Protests shall be filed with the port director whose decision is protested.

(e) *Time of filing.* Protests shall be filed, in accordance with section 514, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1514), within 90 days after either:

(1) The date of notice of liquidation or reliquidation in accordance with §§ 159.9 or 159.10 of this chapter;

(2) The date of the decision, involving neither a liquidation nor reliquidation, as to which the protest is made (e.g., the date of an exaction, the date of written notice excluding merchandise from entry or delivery under any provi-

sion of the Customs laws, the date of a refusal to reliquidate under section 520(c)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, or the date of written notice of a denial of a claim filed under section 520(d) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended); or

(3) The date of mailing of notice of demand for payment against a bond in the case of a surety which has an unsatisfied legal claim under a bond written by the surety.

(f) *Date of filing.* The date on which a protest is received by the Customs officer with whom it is required to be filed shall be deemed the date on which it is filed.

(g) *Return of fifth copy.* If a fifth copy of the protest is presented for the purpose of having recorded thereon the date of its receipt and the protest number assigned thereto, such information shall be recorded thereon and the fifth copy shall be returned to the person filing the protest.

[T.D. 70-181, 35 FR 13429, Aug. 22, 1970, as amended by T.D. 71-15, 36 FR 778, Jan. 16, 1971; 36 FR 1058, Jan. 22, 1971; T.D. 73-175, 38 FR 17488, July 2, 1973; T.D. 80-271, 45 FR 75642, Nov. 17, 1980; T.D. 94-1, 58 FR 69472, Dec. 30, 1993; T.D. 94-55, 59 FR 34971, July 8, 1994; T.D. 95-68, 60 FR 46363, Sept. 6, 1995; T.D. 99-75, 64 FR 56441, Oct. 20, 1999]

§ 174.13 Contents of protest.

(a) *Contents, in general.* A protest shall contain the following information:

(1) The name and address of the protestant, *i.e.*, the importer of record or consignee, and the name and address of his agent or attorney if signed by one of these;

(2) The importer number of the protestant. If the protestant is represented by an agent having power of attorney, the importer number of the agent shall also be shown;

(3) The number and date of the entry;

(4) The date of liquidation of the entry, or the date of a decision not involving a liquidation or reliquidation;

(5) A specific description of the merchandise affected by the decision as to which protest is made;

(6) The nature of, and justification for the objection set forth distinctly and specifically with respect to each category, payment, claim, decision, or refusal;

(7) The date of receipt and protest number of any protest previously filed that is the subject of a pending application for further review pursuant to subpart C of this part and that is alleged to involve the same merchandise and the same issues, if the protesting party requests disposition in accordance with the action taken on such previously filed protest;

(8) If another party has not filed a timely protest, the surety's protest shall certify that the protest is not being filed collusively to extend another authorized person's time to protest; and

(9) A declaration, to the best of the protestant's knowledge, as to whether the entry is the subject of drawback, or whether the entry has been referenced on a certificate of delivery or certificate of manufacture and delivery so as to enable a party to make such entry the subject of drawback (see §§ 181.50(b) and 191.81(b) of this chapter).

(b) *Multiple entries.* A single protest may be filed with respect to more than one entry at any port if all such entries involve the same protesting party, and if the same category of merchandise and a decision or decisions common to all entries are the subject of the protest. In such circumstances, the entry numbers, dates of entry, and dates of liquidation of all such entries should be set forth as an attachment to the protest.

(c) *Optional designation for refunds.* If desired by the importer/consignee the statement "any refunds with respect to the entry under protest shall be mailed to the importer/consignee in care of _____"

(Name and Address of Agent)

may be appended to the protest. This designation supersedes any existing designation previously authorized on Customs Form 4811.

[T.D. 70-181, 35 FR 13429, Aug. 22, 1970, as amended by T.D. 80-271, 45 FR 75642, Nov. 17, 1980; T.D. 98-16, 63 FR 11005, Mar. 5, 1998; T.D. 99-64, 64 FR 43267, Aug. 10, 1999]

§ 174.14 Amendment of protests.

(a) *Time for filing.* A protest may be amended at any time prior to the expiration of the 90-day period within which such protest may be filed deter-

mined in accordance with § 174.12(e). The amendment may assert additional claims pertaining to the administrative decision which is the subject of the protest, or may challenge an additional administrative decision relating to the same category of merchandise which is the subject of the protest. For the presentation of additional grounds or arguments in support of a valid protest after the 90-day period has expired see § 174.28.

(b) *Form and number of copies of amendment.* An amendment to a protest shall be filed in quadruplicate on Customs Form 19 or on a form of the same size, clearly labeled "Amendment to Protest" at the top of the form. Schedules or other attachments (other than samples or similar exhibits) shall also be filed in quadruplicate.

(c) *Contents.* An amendment to a protest shall contain the following information:

(1) The name, address, and importer number of the protesting party, *i.e.*, the importer of record or consignee, and the name and address of his agent or attorney if filed by one of these;

(2) The number and date of filing of the original protest;

(3) A specific description of the merchandise affected by the decision as to which the amendment to the protest is filed;

(4) The nature of and justification for the objection raised by the amendment set forth distinctly and specifically with respect to each category, payment, claim, decision, or refusal; and

(5) The date of receipt and protest number of any protest previously filed that is the subject of a pending application for further review and that is alleged to involve the same merchandise and the same issues involved in the amendment.

(d) *Identification of filer.* An amendment to a protest may be filed only by the person who originally filed such protest or his agent or attorney subject to the provisions of § 174.3. The identity of the filer shall be noted on the amendment to a protest. Any acceptable method used to identify the filer described in § 174.12(c) as being acceptable on a protest will be acceptable on an amendment to a protest.

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(e) *Place and date of filing.* An amendment to a protest shall be filed with the port director with whom the protest was filed. The amendment shall be deemed filed on the date it is received by the Customs officer with whom it is required to be filed.

(f) *Return of fifth copy.* If a fifth copy of the amendment is presented for the purpose of having recorded thereon the date of its receipt, such information shall be recorded thereon and the fifth copy shall be returned to the person filing the amendment.

[T.D. 70-181, 35 FR 13429, Aug. 22, 1970, as amended by T.D. 94-55, 59 FR 34971, July 8, 1994]

§ 174.15 Consolidation of protests filed by different parties.

(a) *General.* Subject to paragraph (b) of this section, separate protests relating to one category of merchandise covered by an entry shall be considered as a single protest whether filed as a single protest or filed as separate protests relating to the same category by one or more parties in interest or an authorized agent.

(b) *NAFTA transactions.* The following rules shall apply to a consolidation of multiple protests concerning a determination of origin under subpart G of part 181 of this chapter if one of the protests is filed by or on behalf of an exporter or producer described in § 174.12(a)(5) of this part:

(1) If consolidation under paragraph (a) of this section is pursuant to specific written requests for consolidation received from all interested parties who filed protests under this part, those interested parties shall be deemed to have waived their rights to confidentiality as regards business information within the meaning of § 181.121 of this chapter. In such cases, a separate notice of the decision will be issued to each interested party under this part but without regard to whether the notice reflects confidential business information obtained from one but not all of those interested parties.

(2) If consolidation under paragraph (a) of this section is done by the port director in the absence of specific written requests for consolidation from all interested parties who filed protests under this part, no waiver of confiden-

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tiality by those interested parties shall be deemed to have taken place. In such cases, a separate notice of the decision will be issued to each interested party and each such notice shall adhere to the principle of confidentiality set forth in § 181.121 of this chapter.

[T.D. 94-1, 58 FR 69472, Dec. 30, 1993]

§ 174.16 Limitation on protests after reliquidation.

A protest shall not be filed against the decision of the port director on reliquidation upon any question not involved in the reliquidation.

Subpart C—Review and Disposition of Protests

§ 174.21 Time for review of protests.

(a) *In general.* Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the port director shall review and act on a protest filed in accordance with section 514, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1514), within 2 years from the date the protest was filed. If several timely filed protests are treated as part of a single protest pursuant to § 174.15, the 2-year period shall be deemed to run from the date the last such protest was filed in accordance with section 514, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1514).

(b) *Protests relating to exclusion of merchandise.* If the protest relates to an administrative action involving exclusion of merchandise from entry or delivery under any provision of the Customs laws, the port director shall review and act on a protest filed in accordance with section 514(a)(4), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1514(a)(4)), within 30 days from the date the protest was filed. Any protest filed pursuant to this paragraph shall clearly so state on its face. Any protest filed pursuant to this paragraph which is not allowed or denied in whole or in part before the 30th day after the day on which the protest was filed shall be treated as having been denied on such 30th day for purposes of 28 U.S.C. 1581.

[T.D. 74-37, 39 FR 2470, Jan. 22, 1974, as amended by T.D. 99-65, 64 FR 43612, Aug. 11, 1999]