

(iii) The port director promptly shall notify the importer or consignee concerned and any authorized agent and surety of the importer or consignee in writing of any extension or suspension of the liquidation period.

(b) When merchandise not covered by an entry is subject to section 592, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1592), a demand shall be made on the importer for payment of the duty estimated to be due on such merchandise.

(c) Any applicable internal revenue tax shall also be demanded unless the merchandise is to be, or has been, forfeited.

[T.D. 84-18, 49 FR 1680, Jan. 13, 1984]

Subpart H—Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act

SOURCE: T.D. 00-88, 65 FR 78091, Dec. 14, 2000, unless otherwise noted.

§ 162.91 Exemptions.

The provisions of this subpart will apply to all seizures of property for civil forfeiture made by Customs and Border Protection or Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers except for those seizures of property to be forfeited under the following statutes: The Tariff Act of 1930 or any other provision of law codified in title 19, United States Code; the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*); the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*); the Trading with the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App. 1 *et seq.*); the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*); and section 1 of title VI of the Act of June 15, 1917 (40 Stat. 233; 22 U.S.C. 401).

[T.D. 02-08, 67 FR 9191, Feb. 28, 2002, as amended by USCBP-2006-0122, 73 FR 9012, Feb. 19, 2007]

§ 162.92 Notice of seizure.

(a) *Generally.* Customs will send written notice of seizure as provided in this section to all known interested parties as soon as practicable. Except as provided in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of this section, in no case may notice be sent more than 60 calendar days after the date of seizure. Any notice issued under this section will include all in-

formation that is required by § 162.31(a) and (b) of this part.

(b) *Seizure by state or local authorities.* In a case in which property is seized by a state or local law enforcement agency and turned over to Customs for the purpose of forfeiture under Federal law, notice will be sent not more than 90 calendar days after the date of seizure by the State or local law enforcement agency.

(c) *Identity or interest of party not determined.* If the identity or interest of a party is not determined until after the seizure or turnover, but it is determined before a declaration of forfeiture, notice will be sent to such interested party not later than 60 calendar days after the determination by Customs of the identity of the party or the party's interest.

(d) *Extensions.* (1) The Assistant Secretary, Immigration and Customs Enforcement or the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection for cases within their respective agencies, or their successors or designees, may extend the period for sending notice under this section for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days, if it is determined that issuance of the notice within 60 calendar days of seizure may have an adverse result, including:

- (i) Endangering the life or physical safety of an individual;
- (ii) Flight from prosecution;
- (iii) Destruction of or tampering with evidence;
- (iv) Intimidation of potential witnesses; or
- (v) Otherwise seriously jeopardizing an investigation or unduly delaying a trial.

(2) The period for sending notice of seizure as provided in paragraph (d)(1) of this section may not be further extended except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction as prescribed in paragraph (e) of this section.

(e) *Extensions by a court.* Upon motion by the Government, a court of competent jurisdiction may extend the period for sending notice for a period not to exceed 60 calendar days. This period may be further extended by the court for additional 60 calendar-day periods, as necessary, if the court determines, based on a written certification of the

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Assistant Commissioner, Investigations, or designee, that the conditions set forth in paragraph (d) of this section are present.

[T.D. 00-88, 65 FR 78091, Dec. 14, 2000, as amended by USCBP-2006-0122, 73 FR 9012, Feb. 19, 2007]

§ 162.93 Failure to issue notice of seizure.

If Customs does not send notice of a seizure of property in accordance with § 162.92 to the person from whom the property was seized, and no extension of time is granted, Customs will return the property to that person without prejudice to the right of the Government to commence a forfeiture proceeding at a later time. Customs is not, however, required to return contraband or other property that the person may not legally possess.

§ 162.94 Filing of a claim for seized property.

(a) *Generally.* In lieu of filing a petition for relief in accordance with part 171 of this chapter, any person claiming property seized by Customs in a non-judicial civil forfeiture proceeding may file a claim with the appropriate Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer.

(b) *When filed.* Unless the Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer provides additional time to the person filing a claim for seized property pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the claim must be filed within 35 calendar days after the date the notice of seizure is mailed. If the notice of seizure is not received, a claim may be filed not later than 30 calendar days after the date of final publication of notice of seizure and intent to forfeit the property.

(c) *Form of claim.* The claim must be in writing but need not be made in any particular form. Claim forms will be made generally available upon request.

(d) *Content of claim.* The claim must:

- (1) Identify the specific property being claimed;
- (2) State the claimant's interest in the property; and
- (3) Be made under oath, subject to penalty of perjury.

(e) *No bond required.* Any person may make a claim under this section without posting a bond.

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(f) *Effect of claim.* Not later than 90 calendar days after a claim has been filed, the Government will file an appropriate complaint for forfeiture, except that a court in the district in which the complaint will be filed may extend the period for filing a complaint for good cause shown or upon agreement of the parties.

[T.D. 00-88, 65 FR 78091, Dec. 14, 2000, as amended by T.D. 02-08, 67 FR 9191, Feb. 28, 2002]

§ 162.95 Release of seized property.

(a) *Generally.* Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a claimant to seized property under 18 U.S.C. 983(a) is entitled to immediate release of the property if:

- (1) The claimant has a possessory interest in the property;
- (2) The claimant has sufficient ties to the community to provide assurance that the property will be available at the time of trial;
- (3) The continued possession of the property by Customs pending the final disposition of forfeiture proceedings will cause substantial hardship to the claimant, such as preventing an individual from working, or leaving an individual homeless; and
- (4) The claimant's likely hardship from the continued possession by Customs of the seized property outweighs the risk that the property will be destroyed, damaged, lost, concealed, or transferred if it is returned to the claimant during the pendency of the proceedings.

(b) *Exceptions.* Immediate release of seized property under paragraph (a) of this section will not apply if the seized property:

- (1) Is contraband, currency or other monetary instrument, or electronic funds, unless, in the case of currency, other monetary instrument or electronic funds, such property comprises the assets of a legitimate business which has been seized;
- (2) Is to be used as evidence of a violation of the law;
- (3) By reason of design or other characteristic, is particularly suited for use in illegal activities; or
- (4) Is likely to be used to commit additional criminal acts if returned to the claimant.