

the charge, if any, to the worker for meals.

DOL has published at 20 CFR 655.102(b)(4) and 655.111(a) the methodology for determining the maximum amounts covered H-2A agricultural employers may charge their U.S. and foreign workers for meals. The same methodology is applied at 20 CFR 655.202(b)(4) and 655.211(a) to covered H-2 logging employers. These rules provide for annual adjustments of the previous year's allowable charges based upon Consumer Price Index (CPI) data.

Each year the maximum charges allowed by 20 CFR 655.102(b)(4) and 655.202(b)(4) are changed by the same percentage as the twelve-month percent change in the CPI for all Urban Consumers for Food (CPI-U for Food) between December of the year just past and December of the year prior to that. Those regulations and 20 CFR 655.111(a) and 655.211(a) provide that the appropriate Regional Administrator (RA), Employment and Training Administration, may permit an employer to charge workers no more than a higher maximum amount for providing them with three meals a day, if justified and sufficiently documented. Each year, the higher maximum amounts permitted by 20 CFR 655.111(a) and 655.211(a) are changed by the same percentage as the twelve-month percent change in the CPI-U for Food between December of the year just past and December of the year prior to that. The regulations require the Department of Labor to make the annual adjustments and to cause a notice to be published in the **Federal Register** each calendar year, announcing annual adjustments in allowable charges that may be made by covered agricultural and logging employers for providing three meals daily to their U.S. and alien workers. The 2002 rates were published in a notice on May 17, 2002 at 67 FR 35150.

DOL has determined the percentage change between December of 2001 and December of 2002 for the CPI-U for Food was 1.8 percent.

Accordingly, the maximum allowable charges under 20 CFR 655.102(b)(4), 655.202(b)(4), 655.111, and 655.211 were adjusted using this percentage change, and the new permissible charges for 2003 are as follows: (1) For 20 CFR 655.102(b)(4) and 655.202(b)(4), the charge, if any, shall be no more than \$8.59 per day, unless the RA has approved a higher charge pursuant to 20 CFR 655.111 or 655.211(b); for 20 CFR 655.111 and 655.211, the RA may permit an employer to charge workers up to \$10.64 per day for providing them with three meals per day, if the

employer justifies the charge and submits to the RA the documentation required to support the higher charge.

C. Maximum Travel Subsistence Expense

The regulations at 20 CFR 655.102(b)(5) establish that the minimum daily subsistence expense related to travel expenses, for which a worker is entitled to reimbursement, is the employer's daily charge for three meals or, if the employer makes no charge, the amount permitted under 20 CFR 655.104(b)(4). The regulation is silent about the maximum amount to which a qualifying worker is entitled.

The Department, in Field Memorandum 42-94, established that the maximum is the meals component of the standard CONUS (continental United States) per diem rate established by the General Services Administration (GSA) and published at 41 CFR Ch. 301. The CONUS meal component is now \$30.00 per day.

Workers who qualify for travel reimbursement are entitled to reimbursement up to the CONUS meal rate for related subsistence when they provide receipts. In determining the appropriate amount of subsistence reimbursement, the employer may use the GSA system under which a traveler qualifies for meal expense reimbursement per quarter of a day. Thus, a worker whose travel occurred during two quarters of a day is entitled, with receipts, to a maximum reimbursement of \$15.00. If a worker has no receipts, the employer is not obligated to reimburse above the minimum stated at 20 CFR 655.102(b)(4) as specified above.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 21st day of February, 2003.

Emily Stover De Rocco,
Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration.

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 03-017]

Government-Owned Inventions, Available for Licensing

ACTION: Notice of availability of inventions for licensing.

SUMMARY: The inventions listed below are assigned to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, have been filed in the United States Patent and

Trademark Office, and are available for licensing.

DATES: February 26, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rob Padilla, Patent Counsel, Ames Research Center, Mail Code 202A-4, Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000; telephone (650) 604-5104, fax (650) 604-2767.

NASA Case No. ARC-14650-1:

Diffraction-Based Optical Correlator;

NASA Case No. ARC-14661-1: A

Plasma Apparatus And Process For Functionalization Of Carbon Nanotubes.

Dated: February 19, 2003.

Robert M. Stephens,

Deputy General Counsel.

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 03-018]

Government-Owned Inventions, Available for Licensing

ACTION: Notice of availability of inventions for licensing.

SUMMARY: The inventions listed below are assigned to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, have been filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and are available for licensing.

DATES: February 26, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kent N. Stone, Patent Counsel, Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field, Mail Code 500-118, Cleveland, OH 44135; telephone (216) 433-8855, fax (216) 433-6790.

NASA Case No. LEW-16901-1: A Real-Time Signal-To-Noise Ratio Estimation Technique For BPSK And QPSK Modulation Using The Active Communications Channel;

NASA Case No. LEW-17176-1: Endwall Treatment And Method For Gas Turbines;

NASA Case No. LEW-17235-1: Resistance Temperature Detector (RTD) Bridge Flow Sensor;

NASA Case No. LEW-17236-1: Computer Mouse Cleaning Apparatus;

NASA Case No. LEW-17237-1: Lateral Movement Of Screw Dislocations During Homoepitaxial Growth And Device Yielded Therefrom Free Of The Detrimental Effects Of Screw Dislocation;

NASA Case No. LEW-17256-1: MEMS Direct Chip Attach (MEMS-DCA) Packaging Methodologies For Harsh Environments;