

## § 171.55

(b) *Forfeiture of res.* If a substitute res is posted and it is determined that the property should be administratively forfeited, the res will be forfeited in lieu of the property.

[T.D. 89-86, 54 FR 37602, Sept. 11, 1989]

### § 171.55 Notice provisions.

(a) *Special notice provision.* At the time of seizure of property defined in § 171.51, written notice must be provided to the possessor of the property regarding applicable statutes and Federal regulations including the procedures established for the filing of a petition for expedited procedures as set forth in section 6079 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 and implementing regulations.

(b) *Notice provision.* The notice as required by section 1607 of Title 19, United States Code and applicable regulations shall be made at the earliest practicable opportunity after determining ownership of, or interest in, the seized property and shall include a statement of the applicable law under which the property is seized and a statement of the circumstances of the seizure sufficiently precise to enable an owner or interested party to identify the date, place and use or acquisition which makes the property subject to forfeiture.

[T.D. 89-86, 54 FR 37602, Sept. 11, 1989; 54 FR 43424, Oct. 25, 1989]

## Subpart G—Supplemental Petitions for Relief

SOURCE: T.D. 00-57, 65 FR 53578, Sept. 5, 2000, unless otherwise noted.

### § 171.61 Time and place of filing.

If the petitioner is not satisfied with a decision of the deciding official on an original petition for relief, a supplemental petition may be filed with the Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer having jurisdiction in the port where the violation occurred. Such supplemental petition must be filed within 60 days from the date of notice to the petitioner of the decision from which further relief is requested or within 60 days following an administrative or judicial decision with respect to the entries involved in a penalty case

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which reduces the loss of duties upon which the mitigated penalty amount was based (whichever is later) unless another time to file such a supplemental petition is prescribed in the decision. The filing of a supplemental petition may be subject to the conditions prescribed in § 171.64 of this part. A supplemental petition may be filed whether or not the mitigated penalty or forfeiture remission amount designated in the decision on the original petition is paid.

### § 171.62 Supplemental petition decision authority.

(a) *Decisions of Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officers.* Supplemental petitions filed on cases where the original decision was made by the Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer, will be initially reviewed by that official. The Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer may choose to grant more relief and issue a decision indicating that additional relief to the petitioner. If the petitioner is dissatisfied with the further relief granted or if the Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer decides to grant no further relief, the supplemental petition will be forwarded to a designated Headquarters official assigned to a field location for review and decision, except that supplemental petitions filed in cases involving violations of 19 U.S.C. 1641 where the amount of the penalty assessed exceeds \$10,000 will be forwarded to the Chief, Penalties Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings.

(b) *Decisions of Customs Headquarters.* Supplemental petitions filed on cases where the original decision was made by the Chief, Penalties Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings, Customs Headquarters, will be forwarded to the Director, International Trade Compliance Division, Customs Headquarters, for review and decision.

(c) *Decisions of Treasury Department.* Supplemental petitions filed on cases where the original decision was made in the Treasury Department, will be referred to the Chief, Penalties Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings, Customs Headquarters, who will forward the supplemental petitions to the Department with a recommendation.

(d) *Authority of Assistant Commissioner.* Any authority given to any Headquarters official by this part may also be exercised by the Assistant Commissioner, Office of Regulations and Rulings, or his designee.

**§ 171.63 Appeals to the Secretary of the Treasury in certain 1592 cases.**

A petitioner filing a supplemental petition pursuant to this subpart from a decision of the Chief, Penalties Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings, with respect to any liability assessed under 19 U.S.C. 1592 may request that the petition be accepted as an appeal to the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary will accept for decision any such supplemental petition when in his discretion he determines that such petition raises a question of fact, law or policy of such importance as to require a decision by the Secretary. If the Secretary declines to accept an appeal for decision, the petitioner will be so informed. In such a case, a decision will be issued thereon by the Director, International Trade Compliance Division.

**§ 171.64 Waiver of statute of limitations.**

The deciding Customs official always reserves the right to require a waiver of the statute of limitations executed by the claimants to the property or charged party or parties as a condition precedent before accepting a supplemental petition in any case in which less than one year remains before the statute will be available as a defense to all or part of that case.

**APPENDIX A TO PART 171—GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSITION OF VIOLATIONS OF 19 U.S.C. 1497**

Liabilities incurred under section 497, Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1497), shall be mitigated or remitted in accordance with the following guidelines (see also part 148, Customs Regulations):

I. *Violations Involving Dutiable Articles.* For violations involving articles subject to duty and for which there is no applicable exemption from duty, the following rules apply:

1. *Mitigated Penalty for First Offense.* For violations which are the first offense, where there is knowledge of the declaration requirements, and where the undeclared articles are discovered by the Customs officers,

the liabilities shall be remitted upon payment of Three Times the Duty (but not less than \$50), or the domestic value, whichever is lower.

2. *Mitigating Factors.* When one or more of the following mitigating factors are present, the deciding officer may, within his discretion, remit the liabilities upon payment of Between One and One-Half and Three Times the Duty or the domestic value, whichever is lower:

a. Communications with the violator are impaired because of language barrier, mental condition, or physical ailment;

b. Violator cooperates with Customs officers after discovery of the violation by providing additional information which facilitates conclusion of the case;

c. Violator is an inexperienced traveler;

d. There is contributory Customs error (for example, violator demonstrates he was given incorrect advice by a Customs officer).

3. *Aggravating Factors.* When one or more of the following aggravating factors are present, the deciding officer may, within his discretion, remit the liabilities upon payment of Between Three and Six Times the Duty (but not less than \$100), or the domestic value, whichever is lower:

a. Documentary or other evidence discovered establishes violator's intent;

b. Informant provides information which tends to establish violator's intent and leads to discovery of the violation after the violator has been given an opportunity to properly declare;

c. Violator is an experienced traveler;

d. Undeclared articles are concealed to evade U.S. law;

e. There is behavior, including extreme lack of cooperation, verbal or physical abuse, or attempted escape, which tends to demonstrate a lack of respect for law and authority.

4. *Commercial Articles.* When the undeclared articles are brought in for commercial purposes, the liabilities shall be remitted upon the payment of Six Times the Duty (but not less than \$100), or the domestic value, whichever is lower. Mitigating factors may be used to lower this amount to as little as Three Times the Duty; aggravating factors may be used to increase this amount up to Eight Times the Duty.

5. *Extraordinary Mitigating Factor.*

a. When an individual who has been cleared through Customs without discovery of any undeclared article returns to the examination area and declares that article, the deciding officer may, within his discretion, remit the liabilities upon payment of One Times the Duty.

b. An individual who declares articles some time later (hours, days, weeks, etc.) may be treated similarly.

6. *Extraordinary Aggravating Factors.*