

property, or within 90 days of the date the property is placed in official use.

(Authority: Secs. 613, 618, 46 Stat. 756, 757, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1613, 1618); Pub. L. 98-473, Pub. L. 98-573)

[36 FR 7820, Apr. 24, 1971. Redesignated at 38 FR 26609, Sept. 24, 1973, and amended at 49 FR 50643, Dec. 31, 1984]

#### § 1316.81 Handling of petitions.

Upon receipt of a petition, the custodian or DEA Asset Forfeiture System shall request an appropriate investigation. The petition and the report of investigation shall be forwarded to the Director of the FBI or to the Administrator of the DEA, depending upon which agency seized the property. If the petition involves a case which has been referred to the U.S. Attorney for the institution of court proceedings, the custodian or DEA Asset Forfeiture System shall transmit the petition to the U.S. Attorney for the judicial district in which the proceeding for forfeiture is brought. He shall notify the petitioner of this action.

(Authority: 28 U.S.C. 509 and 510; 21 U.S.C. 871 and 881(d); Pub. L. 98-473, Pub. L. 98-573)

[48 FR 35088, Aug. 3, 1983, as amended at 49 FR 1178, Jan. 10, 1984; 49 FR 50643, Dec. 31, 1984; 56 FR 8686, Mar. 1, 1991; 62 FR 13970, Mar. 24, 1997]

### Subpart F—Expedited Forfeiture Proceedings for Certain Property

AUTHORITY: 21 U.S.C. 822, 871, 872, 880, 881, 881-1, 883, 958, 965; 19 U.S.C. 1606, 1607, 1608, 1610, 1613, 1618; 28 U.S.C. 509, 510; Pub. L. No. 100-690, sec. 6079, 6080.

SOURCE: 54 FR 37610, Sept. 11, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 1316.90 Purpose and scope.

(a) The following definitions, regulations, and criteria are designed to establish and implement procedures required by sections 6079 and 6080 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, Public Law No. 100-690 (102 Stat. 4181). They are intended to supplement existing law and procedures relative to the forfeiture of property under the identified statutory authority. The provisions of these regulations do not affect the existing legal and equitable rights and

remedies of those with an interest in property seized for forfeiture, nor do these provisions relieve interested parties from their existing obligations and responsibilities in pursuing their interests through such courses of action. These regulations are intended to reflect the intent of Congress to minimize the adverse impact on those entitled to legal or equitable relief occasioned by the prolonged detention of property subject to forfeiture due to violations of law involving personal use quantities of controlled substances, and conveyances seized for drug-related offenses. The definition of personal use quantities of a controlled substance as contained herein is intended to distinguish between those quantities small in amount which are generally considered to be possessed for personal consumption and not for further distribution, and those larger quantities generally considered to be subject to further distribution.

(b) In this regard, for violations involving the possession of personal use quantities of a controlled substance, section 6079(b)(2) requires either that administrative forfeiture be completed within 21 days of the seizure of the property, or alternatively, that procedures are established that provide a means by which an individual entitled to relief may initiate an expedited administrative review of the legal and factual basis of the seizure for forfeiture. Should an individual request relief pursuant to these regulations and be entitled to the return of the seized property, such property shall be returned immediately following that determination, and the administrative forfeiture process shall cease. Should the individual not be entitled to the return of the seized property, however, the administrative forfeiture of that property shall proceed. The owner may, in any event, obtain release of property pending the administrative forfeiture by submitting to the agency making the determination, property sufficient to preserve the government's vested interest for purposes of the administrative forfeiture.

(c) Section 6080 requires a similar expedited review by the Attorney General or his representative in those instances where a conveyance is being forfeited

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in a civil judicial proceeding following its seizure for a drug-related offense.

### § 1316.91 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, the following terms shall have the meanings specified:

(a) The term *Appraised Value* means the estimated domestic price at the time of seizure at which such or similar property is freely offered for sale.

(b) The term *Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel* means a vessel that:

(1) Commercially engages in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish or an activity that can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish;

(2) Commercially prepares fish or fish products other than by gutting, decapitating, gilling, skinning, shucking, icing, freezing, or brine chilling; or

(3) Commercially supplies, stores, refrigerates, or transports fish, fish products, or materials directly related to fishing or the preparation of fish to or from a fishing, fish processing, or fish tender vessel or fish processing facility.

(c) The term *Controlled Substance* has the meaning given in section 802 of title 21, United States Code (U.S.C.).

(d) The term *Drug-Related Offense* means any proscribed offense which involves the possession, distribution, manufacture, cultivation, sale, transfer, or the attempt or conspiracy to possess, distribute, manufacture, cultivate, sell or transfer any substance the possession of which is prohibited by Title 21, U.S.C.

(e) The term *Immediately* means within 20 days of the filing of a petition for expedited release by an owner.

(f) The term *Interested Party* means one who was in legal possession of the property at the time of seizure and is entitled to legal possession at the time of the granting of the petition for expedited release. This includes a lienholder (to the extent of his interest in the property) whose claim is in writing (except for a maritime lien which need not be in writing), unless the collateral is in the possession of the secured party. The agreement securing such lien must create or provide for a security interest in the collateral, de-

scribe the collateral, and be signed by the debtor.

(g) The term *Legal and Factual Basis of the Seizure* means 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 other interested party to identify the date, place, and use or acquisition which makes the property subject to forfeiture.

(h) The term *Normal and Customary Manner* means that inquiry suggested by particular facts and circumstances which would customarily be undertaken by a reasonably prudent individual in a like or similar situation. Actual knowledge of such facts and circumstances is unnecessary, and implied, imputed, or constructive knowledge is sufficient. An established norm, standard, or custom is persuasive but not conclusive or controlling in determining whether an owner acted in a normal and customary manner to ascertain how property would be used by another legally in possession of the property. The failure to act in a normal and customary manner as defined herein will result in the denial of a petition for expedited release of the property and is intended to have the desirable effect of inducing owners of the property to exercise greater care in transferring possession of their property.

(i) The term *Owner* means one having a legal and possessory interest in the property seized for forfeiture. Even though one may hold primary and direct title to the property seized, such person may not have sufficient actual beneficial interest in the property to support a petition as owner if the facts indicate that another person had dominion and control over the property.

(j) The term *Personal Use Quantities* means possession of controlled substances in circumstances where there is no other evidence of an intent to distribute, of to facilitate the manufacturing, compounding, processing, delivering, importing or exporting of any controlled substance. Evidence of personal use quantities shall not include sweepings or other evidence of possession of quantities of a controlled substance for other than personal use.