

**PART 128—EXPRESS
CONSIGNMENTS**

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AUTHORITY: 19 U.S.C. 66, 1202 (General Note 22, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States), 1321, 1484, 1498, 1551, 1555, 1556, 1565, 1624.

SOURCE: T.D. 89-53, 54 FR 19566, May 8, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

§ 128.0 Scope.

This part sets forth requirements and procedures for the clearance of imported merchandise carried by express consignment operators and carriers, including couriers, under special procedures.

Subpart A—General

§ 128.1 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Express consignment operator or carrier.* An “express consignment operator or carrier” is an entity operating in any mode or intermodally moving cargo by special express commercial service under closely integrated administrative control. Its services are offered to the public under advertised, reliable timely delivery on a door-to-door basis. An express consignment operator assumes liability to Customs for the articles in the same manner as if it is the sole carrier.

(b) *Cargo.* “Cargo” means any and all shipments imported into the Customs territory of the United States by an ex-

press consignment operator or carrier whether manifested, accompanied, or unaccompanied.

(c) *Courier shipment.* A “courier shipment” is an accompanied express consignment shipment.

(d) *Hub.* A “hub” is a separate, unique, single purpose facility normally operating outside of Customs operating hours approved by the port director for entry filing, examination, and release of express consignment shipments.

(e) *Express consignment carrier facility.* An “express consignment carrier facility” is a separate or shared specialized facility approved by the port director solely for the examination and release of express consignment shipments.

(f) *Closely integrated administrative control.* The term “closely integrated administrative control” means operations must be sufficiently integrated at both ends of the service (i.e., pick-up and delivery) so that the express consignment company can exercise a high degree of control over the shipments, particularly in regard to the reliability of information supplied for Customs purposes. Such control would be indicated by substantial common ownership between the local company and the foreign affiliate and/or by a very close contractual relationship between the local company and its foreign affiliate(s) (e.g., a franchise arrangement).

(g) *Reimbursable.* “Reimbursable” means all normal costs incurred at an express consignment operator’s hub or an express consignment carrier facility that are required to be reimbursed to the Government.

Subpart B—Administration

§ 128.11 Express consignment carrier application process.

(a) *Facility application.* Requests for approval of an express consignment carrier or hub facility must be in writing to the port director.

(b) *Application contents.* The application for approval of an express consignment carrier or hub facility must include the following:

(1) A full description of the international cargo facilities, including blueprints, floor plans and facility location(s).

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(2) A statement of the general character of the express consignment operations.

(3) An estimate of volume of transactions by:

(i) Formal entries.

(ii) Informal entries.

(iii) Shipments not requiring entry (see § 128.23 of this part).

(4) An application processing fee, as set forth in § 128.13.

(5) A list of principal company officials or officers.

(6) A projected start-up date, and days and hours of operation.

(7) An agreement that the express consignment entity will:

(i) Ensure that all cargo will be processed in the Customs Automated Commercial System (ACS) and associated modules, including, but not limited to, Automated Broker Interface (ABI), Automated Manifest System (AMS), Cargo Selectivity, and Statement Processing.

(ii) Sign and implement a narcotics enforcement agreement with Customs.

(iii) Provide, without cost to the Government, adequate office space, equipment, furnishings, supplies and security as per Customs specifications.

(iv) Timely pay all reimbursable costs, as determined by the port director.

(v) Pay to Customs all relocation, training and all other exceptional costs and expenses incurred by Customs in relocating necessary staff to the company's hub location to provide service to the company and to pay expenses incurred by Customs due to termination or decline of operations at the facility.

(c) *Changes or alterations to facility.* All proposed changes or alterations to an existing approved international cargo processing facility must be submitted in writing to the port director for approval prior to the implementation thereof and shall contain the information specified in paragraph (b) of this section. Failure to obtain Customs approval by an express consignment operator or carrier for any modifications to the international cargo processing area may result in the suspension of approval as an express consignment facility or hub and the proce-

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dures for processing cargo contained in this part.

[T.D. 89-53, 54 FR 19566, May. 8, 1989, as amended by T.D. 93-66, 58 FR 44130, Aug. 19, 1993]

§ 128.12 Application approval/denial and suspension of operating privileges.

(a) *Notice.* (1) The port director shall promptly notify the applicant in writing of the decision to approve or deny the application to establish an express consignment carrier or hub facility or to suspend or revoke operating privileges at an existing facility.

(2) The notice shall specifically state the grounds for denial or for the proposed suspension or revocation.

(b) *Appeal.* The express consignment entity may file a written notice of appeal seeking review of the denial or proposed suspension or revocation within 30 days after notification.

(c) *Recommendation.* The port director shall consider the allegations and responses in the appeal unless, in the case of a suspension or revocation, the express consignment entity requests a hearing. The appeal along with the port director's recommendation shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of Customs or his designee for a final administrative decision.

(d) *Hearing.* In the case of a proposed suspension or revocation, a hearing may be requested within 30 days after notification. If a hearing is requested, it shall be held before a hearing officer appointed by the Commissioner of Customs or his designee within 30 days following the express consignment entity's request. The entity shall be notified of the time and place of the hearing at least 5 days prior thereto. The express consignment entity may be represented by counsel at such hearing, and all evidence and testimony of witnesses in such proceedings, including substantiation of the allegations and the responses thereto shall be presented, with the right of cross-examination to both parties. A stenographic record of any such proceeding shall be made and a copy thereof shall be delivered to the express consignment entity. At the conclusion of the hearing, all papers and the stenographic record of