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duty chargeable at the time the merchandise became subject to sale. Household and personal effects of the character provided for in Chapter 98, Subchapter IV, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202), which belong to persons who have not arrived in this country before the effects become subject to sale, are dutiable at the rates in effect when the effects become subject to sale, even though such persons arrive and make entry for the effects before they are sold.

(Secs. 491, 493, 559, 46 Stat. 726, as amended, 727, as amended, 744, as amended; (19 U.S.C. 1491, 1493, 1559))

[T.D. 74-114, 39 FR 12092, Apr. 3, 1974, as amended by T.D. 89-1, 53 FR 51255, Dec. 21, 1988; T.D. 97-82, 62 FR 51770, Oct. 3, 1997]

§ 127.34 Auctioneer's commissions.

The duties of the auctioneer shall be confined to selling the merchandise and his charge for such service shall in no case exceed the commissions usual at the port. Such commissions shall be based on the amount of the successful bid.

(Secs. 491, 493, 559, 46 Stat. 726, as amended, 727, as amended, 744, as amended; (19 U.S.C. 1491, 1493, 1559))

§ 127.35 Presentation of accounts.

Accounts for the auctioneer's charges and all other expenses of sale which may be properly chargeable on the merchandise shall be presented to the port director for payment within 10 days from the date of sale. Such expenses shall be apportioned pro rata on the amounts received for different lots sold.

(Secs. 491, 493, 559, 46 Stat. 726, as amended, 727, as amended, 744, as amended; (19 U.S.C. 1491, 1493, 1559))

§ 127.36 Claim for surplus proceeds of sale.

(a) *Filing of claim.* Claims for the surplus proceeds of the sale of unclaimed or abandoned merchandise shall be filed with the port director at whose direction the merchandise was sold. The following shall be used in filing a claim:

(1) *Unclaimed merchandise.* Claims for surplus proceeds of the sale of un-

claimed merchandise which has become abandoned and sold under section 491 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1491), shall be supported by the original bill of lading. If only part of a shipment is involved, either a photostatic or certified copy of the original bill of lading may be submitted in lieu of the original bill of lading.

(2) *Involuntarily abandoned merchandise—(i) Warehouse goods deemed abandoned.* Claims for surplus proceeds of sale of warehouse goods deemed involuntarily abandoned sold under section 559 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1559), shall be established by reference to the warehouse entry, or, if the right to withdraw the merchandise from warehouse has been transferred, by reference to the documents by which the transfer was made.

(ii) *Trade fair articles deemed abandoned.* Claims for surplus proceeds of sale of trade fair articles deemed involuntarily (mandatorily) abandoned under section 4 of the Trade Fair Act of 1959 (19 U.S.C. 1753(c)), shall be supported by the original bill of lading. If only part of a shipment is involved, either a photostatic copy or certified copy of the original bill of lading may be submitted in lieu of the original bill of lading. (See §147.47 of this chapter.)

(b) *Payment of claim.* If a claim of the owner or consignee of unclaimed or abandoned merchandise for the surplus proceeds of sale is properly established as provided in this section, such proceeds of sale shall be paid to him pursuant to section 493 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1493).

(c) *Doubtful claims.* Any doubtful claims for the proceeds of sale along with all pertinent documents and information available to the port director shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of Customs for instructions or for referral to the General Accounting Office for direct settlement.

(Secs. 491, 493, 559, 46 Stat. 726, as amended, 727, as amended, 744, as amended, sec. 4, 73 Stat. 18 (19 U.S.C. 1491, 1493, 1559, 1753))

§ 127.37 Insufficient proceeds.

(a) *Warehouse merchandise deemed involuntarily abandoned.* If the proceeds of sale of warehouse merchandise deemed involuntarily abandoned are

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insufficient to pay the duties after payment of all charges having priority, the deficiency shall be collected under the bond for the importation and entry of merchandise on Customs Form 301, containing the bond conditions set forth in §113.62 of this chapter.

(b) *Unclaimed merchandise and trade fair articles involuntarily abandoned.* If the proceeds of sale of unclaimed merchandise or trade fair articles involuntarily abandoned are insufficient to pay the charges and duties, the consignee shall be liable for the deficiency unless the merchandise was shipped to him without his consent. If no entry for the merchandise has been filed, and no other attempt to control the merchandise has been made, the merchandise shall be regarded as shipped to the consignee without his consent and no effort shall be made to collect any deficiency of duties or charges from such consignee.

(Secs. 491, 492, 493, 559, 46 Stat. 726, as amended, 727, as amended, 744, as amended, sec. 4, 73 Stat. 18 (19 U.S.C. 1491, 1492, 1493, 1559, 1753); R.S. 251, as amended, secs. 623, as amended, 624, 46 Stat. 759, as amended (19 U.S.C. 66, 1623, 1624))

[T.D. 74-114, 39 FR 12092, Apr. 3, 1974, as amended by T.D. 84-213, 49 FR 41183, Oct. 19, 1984]

PART 128—EXPRESS CONSIGNMENTS

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AUTHORITY: 19 U.S.C. 66, 1202 (General Note 23, 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 express 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