

information to Customs shall be accompanied by a written statement confirming that a copy has already been provided to the opposing party. The port director shall notify the importer and the copyright owner that they shall have additional time, not to exceed 30 days, in which to provide a response to the arguments submitted by the opposing party, and that rebuttal arguments, timely submitted, shall be fully considered in the decision-making process. During this rebuttal period and before timely submitting the rebuttal arguments to Customs, the importer and the copyright owner shall first provide each other with a copy of all such material. The submission of this rebuttal material to Customs shall be accompanied by a written statement confirming that a copy has been provided to the opposing party. The port director shall not accept any additional material from the parties to substantiate the claim or denial of infringement after the final 30-day rebuttal period expires.

(ii) *Decision.* Upon receipt of rebuttal arguments, or 30 days after notification if no rebuttal arguments are submitted, the port director shall forward the entire file, together with a sample of each style that is considered possibly infringing, to Customs Headquarters, (Attention: International Trade Compliance Division, Office of Regulations and Rulings), for decision on the disputed claim of infringement. The final decision on the disputed claim of infringement shall be forwarded to the port director who shall send a copy thereof to the copyright owner as well as to the importer.

(2) *Infringement disclaimed or unsupported.* If the copyright owner disclaims that the specified imported article is an infringing copy of his recorded copyrighted work, or fails to present sufficient evidence or proof to substantiate a claim of infringement, the port director shall release the detained shipment to the importer and all further importations of the same article, by whomsoever imported, without further notice to the copyright owner.

(3) *Failure to file demand or bond.* If the copyright owner fails to file a written demand for exclusion and bond as required by paragraph (b) of this sec-

tion, the port director shall release the detained articles to the importer and notify the copyright owner of the release.

(4) *Withdrawal of bond.* Where the copyright owner has posted a bond on the grounds that the imported article is infringing, the copyright owner may not withdraw the bond until a decision on the issue of infringement has been reached.

(e) *Alternative procedure: court action.* As an alternative to the administrative procedure described in this section, the copyright owner, whether or not he has recorded his copyright with Customs, may seek a court order enjoining importation of the article. To obtain Customs enforcement of an injunction, the copyright owner shall submit a certified copy of the court order to the Commissioner of Customs, Attention: Office of the Chief Counsel, Washington, DC 20229. In addition, if the copyright in question is not recorded with Customs, the copyright owner shall submit the \$190 fee required by §133.33(b) and, if the work is a three-dimensional or other work not readily identifiable by title and author, 5 photographic or other likenesses reproduced on paper approximately 8" x 10½" in size.

[T.D. 87-40, 52 FR 9475, Mar. 25, 1987, as amended by T.D. 93-87, 58 FR 57740, Oct. 27, 1993; T.D. 98-21, 63 FR 12000, Mar. 12, 1998; 63 FR 15088, Mar. 30, 1998]

§ 133.44 Decision of disputed claim of infringement.

(a) *Claim of infringement sustained.* Upon determination by the Commissioner of Customs or his designee that the detained article forwarded in accordance with §133.43(c)(1) is an infringing copy, the port director shall seize the imported article and institute forfeiture proceedings in accordance with part 162 of this chapter. The bond of the copyright owner shall be returned.

(b) *Denial of infringement sustained.* Upon determination by the Commissioner of Customs or his designee that the detained article forwarded in accordance with §133.43(c)(1) is not an infringing copy, the port director shall release all detained merchandise and

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transmit the copyright owner's bond to the importer.

[T.D. 87-40, 52 FR 9476, Mar. 25, 1987, as amended by T.D. 97-30, 62 FR 19493, Apr. 22, 1997]

§ 133.45 [Reserved]

§ 133.46 Demand for redelivery of released articles.

If it is determined that articles which have been released from Customs custody are subject to the prohibitions or restrictions of this subpart, the director of the port of entry shall promptly make demand for redelivery of the articles under the terms of the bond on Customs Form 301, containing the bond conditions set forth in § 113.62 of this chapter, in accordance with § 141.113 of this chapter. If the articles are not redelivered to Customs custody, a claim for liquidated damages shall be made in accordance with § 141.113(h) of this chapter.

[T.D. 72-266, 37 FR 20678, Oct. 3, 1972, as amended by T.D. 73-175, 38 FR 17447, July 2, 1973; T.D. 74-227, 39 FR 32023, Sept. 4, 1974; T.D. 84-213, 49 FR 41183, Oct. 19, 1984; T.D. 99-64, 64 FR 43266, Aug. 10, 1999]

Subpart F—Procedure Following Forfeiture or Assessment of Liquidated Damages

§ 133.51 Relief from forfeiture or liquidated damages.

(a) *Petition for relief.* The importer may petition in accordance with parts 171 and 172 of this chapter for relief from, or cancellation of, a forfeiture incurred for violation of the trademark or copyright laws, or a claim for liquidated damages for failure to redeliver released merchandise incurred under the provisions of § 133.24 or § 133.46.

(b) *Conditioned relief.* In appropriate cases, except for articles bearing a counterfeit trademark, relief from a forfeiture may be granted pursuant to a petition for relief upon the following conditions and such other conditions as may be specified by the appropriate Customs authority:

(1) The unlawfully imported or prohibited articles are exported or destroyed under Customs supervision and at no expense to the Government;

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(2) All offending trademarks or trade names are removed or obliterated prior to release of the articles;

(3) In the case of books or periodicals manufactured abroad contrary to the terms of the "American manufacturing clause" of the Copyright Act of 1976 (17 U.S.C. 602, 603):

(i) Satisfactory evidence is submitted that a statement of abandonment has been filed and recorded in the Copyright Office by the copyright owner in accordance with the procedures of the Copyright Office; and

(ii) The notice of copyright is completely obliterated prior to release of the books or periodicals.

[T.D. 72-266, 37 FR 20678, Oct. 3, 1972, as amended by T.D. 79-159, 44 FR 31968, June 4, 1979; T.D. 87-40, 52 FR 9476, Mar. 25, 1987]

§ 133.52 Disposition of forfeited merchandise.

(a) *Trademark (other than counterfeit) or trade name violations.* Articles forfeited for violation of the trademark laws, other than articles bearing a counterfeit trademark, shall be disposed of in accordance with the procedures applicable to forfeitures for violation of the Customs laws, after the removal or obliteration of the name, mark, or trademark by reason of which the articles were seized.

(b) *Copyright violations.* Articles forfeited for violation of the copyright laws shall be destroyed.

(c) *Articles bearing a counterfeit trademark.* Merchandise forfeited for violation of the trademark laws shall be destroyed, unless it is determined that the merchandise is not unsafe or a hazard to health and the Commissioner of Customs or his designee has the written consent of the U.S. trademark owner, in which case the Commissioner of Customs or his designee may dispose of the merchandise, after obliteration of the trademark, where feasible, by:

(1) Delivery to any Federal, State, or local government agency that, in the opinion of the Commissioner or his designee, has established a need for the merchandise; or

(2) Gift to any charitable institution that, in the opinion of the Commissioner or his designee, has established a need for the merchandise; or