

of the United States who either furnishes original information concerning any fraud upon the customs revenue or any violation, perpetrated or contemplated, of the customs or navigation laws or any other laws administered or enforced by Customs, or detects and seizes any item subject to seizure and forfeiture under the customs or navigation laws or other laws enforced by Customs and reports the same to a Customs officer, may file a claim for compensation, provided there is a net amount recovered from such detection and seizure or such information, unless other laws specify different procedures. Any employee or officer of the United States who receives, accepts, or contracts for any portion of such compensation, either directly or indirectly, is subject to criminal prosecution and civil liability as provided by 19 U.S.C. 1620.

[T.D. 98-22, 63 FR 11826, Mar. 11, 1998]

§ 161.14 Advising informant of entitlement.

Any Customs officer who receives information shall advise the informant that, in the event of a recovery, he may be entitled to compensation. He shall also advise the informant that, if the informant has executed a stipulation to that effect, any amount received by the informant in the form of purchase of evidence or purchase of information will be deducted from any compensation which may be awarded.

§ 161.15 Confidentiality for informant.

The name and address of the informant shall be kept confidential. No files or information shall be revealed which might aid in the unauthorized identification of an informant. Release of information is governed by §§ 103.12(g)(4) and 103.12(i) of this chapter.

§ 161.16 Filing a claim for informant compensation.

(a) *Limitations on claims.* Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1619, an informant may be paid up to 25 percent of the net recovery to the government from duties withheld; from any fine (civil or criminal), forfeited bail bond, penalty, or forfeiture incurred; or, if the forfeiture is remitted, from the monetary penalty recovered for remission of the for-

feiture. The amount of the award paid to informants shall not exceed \$250,000 for any one case, regardless of the number of recoveries that result from the information furnished; however, no claim of less than \$100 will be paid.

(b) *Filing of claim.* A claim shall be filed, in duplicate, on Customs Form 4623 with the Special Agent in Charge, who shall make a recommendation on the form as to approval and the amount of the award. The Special Agent in Charge shall forward the form to the port director, who shall make a recommendation on the form as to approval and the amount of the award. The port director shall forward the form to Customs Headquarters for action. If for any reason a claim has not been transmitted by the port director, the claimant may apply directly to Customs Headquarters.

[T.D. 98-22, 63 FR 11826, Mar. 11, 1998]

PART 162—INSPECTION, SEARCH, AND SEIZURE

Sec.

162.0 Scope.

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162.4 Search for letters.

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162.21 Responsibility and authority for seizures.

162.22 Seizure of conveyances.

162.23 Seizure under section 596(c), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1595a(c)).