

(b) Any action or proceeding for the forfeiture of firearms or ammunition seized under 18 U.S.C. Chapter 44 shall be commenced within 120 days of such seizure.

(c) Upon acquittal of the owner or possessor, or the dismissal of the criminal charges against such person other than upon motion of the Government prior to trial, or lapse of or court termination of the restraining order to which such person is subject, firearms or ammunition seized or relinquished under 18 U.S.C. Chapter 44 shall be returned forthwith to the owner or possessor or to a person delegated by the owner or possessor unless the return of the firearms or ammunition would place the owner or possessor or his delegate in violation of law.

[T.D. ATF-270, 53 FR 10489, Mar. 31, 1988, as amended by T.D. ATF-363, 60 FR 17449, Apr. 6, 1995]

**§ 72.22 Forfeiture of seized personal property and carriers.**

(a) *Administrative forfeiture.* (1) Personal property seized as subject to forfeiture under Title 26 U.S.C. which has an appraised value of \$100,000.00 or less, and any carrier appraised by the seizing officer at \$100,000.00 or less under the customs laws, shall be forfeited to the United States in administrative or summary forfeiture proceedings.

(2) In respect of personal property seized as subject to forfeiture under title 26 U.S.C. which, in the opinion of the seizing officer, has an appraised value of \$100,000.00 or less, such officer shall cause a list containing a particular description of the seized property to be prepared and an appraisal thereof to be made by three sworn appraisers, selected by the seizing officer, who shall be respectable and disinterested citizens of the United States residing within the internal revenue district wherein the seizure was made. Such list and appraisal shall be properly attested to by the seizing officer and such appraisers.

(3) In respect of personal property seized as subject to forfeiture under title 26 U.S.C. and found by the appraisers to have a value of \$100,000.00 or less, the Director or his delegate shall publish a notice once a week for three consecutive weeks, in some newspaper

of the judicial district where the seizure was made, describing the articles and stating the time, place, and cause of their seizure, and requiring any person claiming them to make such claim within 30 days from the date of the first publication of such notice.

(4) In respect of carriers seized as subject to forfeiture under the customs laws which, in the opinion of the seizing officer, have an appraised value of \$100,000.00 or less, such officer shall cause a list containing a particular description of the seized carriers to be prepared and the seizing officer shall make the appraisal thereof. Such list and appraisal shall be properly attested to by the seizing officer.

(5) In respect of carriers seized as subject to forfeiture under the customs laws and appraised by the seizing officer as having a value of \$100,000.00 or less, the Director or his delegate shall publish a notice of seizure in the same manner as required by paragraph (a)(3) of this section; provided that the time for making claim shall be within 20 days from the date of first publication. (19 U.S.C. 1608).

(6) Any person claiming the personal property or carrier so seized, within the time specified in the notice, may file with the Director a claim stating the interest in the articles or carrier seized, and may execute a bond to the United States, conditioned that, in case of condemnation of the articles or carrier so seized, the obligators shall pay all the costs and expenses of the proceedings to obtain such condemnation. The amount of the cost bond is \$2,500.00, unless the seized property is a vehicle, vessel, or aircraft seized for a violation of 49 U.S.C. App., Chapter 11, in which case the cost bond shall be in the amount of \$2,500 or ten percent of the value of the claimed property, whichever is lower, but not less than \$250.00. Both the claim and the cost bond shall be executed in quadruplicate.

(b) *Judicial condemnation.* The Chief Counsel of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, shall authorize institution of forfeiture proceedings in those instances where the appraised value of the seized personal property or

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carrier exceeds \$100,000.00 or where a claim and cost bond are filed.

(Sec. 111, Pub. L. 95-410, 92 Stat. 897, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1607, 1610, 1612))

[T.D. ATF-9, 39 FR 9954, Mar. 15, 1974, as amended by T.D. ATF-65, 45 FR 8593, Feb. 8, 1980; T.D. ATF-183, 49 FR 37061, Sept. 21, 1984; T.D. ATF-241, 51 FR 39613, Oct. 29, 1986; T.D. ATF-270, 53 FR 10489, Mar. 31, 1988]

### § 72.23 Type and conditions of cost bond.

The cost bond delivered by a claimant to effect removal of the forfeiture status of the property or carrier claimed to the jurisdiction of the Federal court for adjudication shall be a corporate surety bond: *Provided, however,* That upon a showing to the satisfaction of the Director or his delegate that the claimant is unable to furnish a corporate surety bond such claimant may deliver a cost bond with individual sureties acceptable to the Director or his delegate: *Provided further,* That in lieu of a cost bond with corporate or individual sureties the claimant may deposit collateral as provided in § 72.25. The cost bond shall be conditioned that in the case of the condemnation of the property the obligators shall pay all costs and expenses of the proceedings to obtain such condemnation.

[T.D. ATF-9, 39 FR 9954, Mar. 15, 1974, as amended by T.D. ATF-183, 49 FR 37061, Sept. 21, 1984]

### § 72.24 Corporate surety bonds.

(a) Corporate surety bonds may be given only with surety companies holding certificates of authority from the Secretary of the Treasury as acceptable sureties on Federal bonds, subject to the limitations prescribed by Treasury Department Circular No. 570 (Companies Holding Certificates of Authority as Acceptable Sureties on Federal Bonds and as Acceptable Reinsuring Companies), and subject to such amendments as may be issued from time to time.

(b) Treasury Department Circular No. 570 is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER yearly as of the first workday of July. As they occur, interim revisions of the circular are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Copies may be obtained from the Audit Staff, Bureau of Government Financial Operations,

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Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20226.

(July 30, 1947, Ch. 390, 61 Stat. 648, as amended (6 U.S.C. 6, 7); Aug. 16, 1954, Ch. 736, 68A Stat. 847, as amended (26 U.S.C. 7101))

[T.D. ATF-92, 46 FR 46914, Sept. 23, 1981]

### § 72.25 Deposit of collateral.

(a) Bonds or notes of the United States, or other obligations which are unconditionally guaranteed as to both interest and principal by the United States, may be pledged and deposited by claimants as collateral security in lieu of corporate sureties in accordance with the provisions of Treasury Department Circular No. 154 (31 CFR Part 225—Acceptance of Bonds, Notes or Other Obligations Issued or Guaranteed by the United States as Security in Lieu of Surety or Sureties on Penal Bonds). Alternatively, cash, postal money orders, and certified or cashiers' or treasurers' checks may be furnished by claimants as collateral security in lieu of corporate sureties.

(b) Treasury Department Circular No. 154 is periodically revised and contains the provisions of 31 CFR Part 225 and the forms prescribed in 31 CFR Part 225. Copies of the circular may be obtained from the Audit Staff, Bureau of Government Financial Operations, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20226.

(July 30, 1947, Ch. 390, 61 Stat. 650 (6 U.S.C. 15); Aug. 16, 1954, Ch. 736, 68A Stat. 847, as amended (26 U.S.C. 7101))

[T.D. ATF-92, 46 FR 46914, Sept. 23, 1981]

### § 72.26 Bond for return of seized perishable goods.

The proceedings to enforce forfeiture of perishable goods shall be in the nature of a proceeding in rem in the district court of the United States for the district wherein such seizure is made. Whenever such property is liable to perish or become greatly reduced in price or value by keeping, or when it cannot be kept without great expense, the Director or his delegate shall advise the owner, when known, of the seizure thereof. The owner may apply to the Director or his delegate to have the property examined any time prior to referral of the property to the U.S. Marshal for disposition, and if in the