

treaties under subheading 9806.00.30, HTSUS.

(6) Diplomatic couriers, limited to accompanying baggage and effects.

(c) *Absence of special request.* In the absence of special request from the Department of State prior to the arrival of representatives of foreign governments enumerated in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, their immediate families as well as accompanying suites and servants, and diplomatic couriers, their baggage and effects may be admitted free of duty without entry upon presentation of their credentials or other proof of their identity.

(d) *Delay in arrival of baggage or effects.* If by accident or unavoidable delay in shipment the baggage or other effects of a person entitled to the privileges of this section shall arrive after him upon satisfactory proof of ownership, such baggage or effects may be passed free of duty without entry.

(e) *Inspection of baggage—(1) Exemption for representatives of foreign governments.* The personal baggage of the following representatives of foreign governments and their families is ordinarily exempt from inspection:

(i) Ambassadors, ministers, *chargés d'affaires*, secretaries, counselors, attachés of foreign embassies or legations, and other members of the diplomatic staffs of such missions, who are accredited to the United States or en route between other countries to which accredited and their own countries and members of their families forming part of their household who are not nationals of the United States.

(ii) Consular officers recognized by the United States and members of their families forming part of their household who are not nationals or permanent residents of the United States, provided the baggage accompanies them.

(iii) Diplomatic couriers, provided the baggage accompanies them.

(2) *Conditions permitting inspection.* The personal baggage of representatives of foreign governments listed in paragraph (e)(1) of this section and members of their families may be inspected if there is serious reason to believe that it contains:

(i) Articles other than those for the personal use of such persons or for the

use of their establishments or for official mission use.

(ii) In the case of consular officers and their families, articles intended for consumption in excess of the quantities necessary for direct use by the person concerned.

(iii) Articles which are absolutely or conditionally prohibited importation or exportation under the laws or regulations of the United States, or which are subject to the quarantine laws or regulations of the United States.

(3) *Presence of foreign representative.* When inspection of personal baggage is permitted under paragraph (e)(2) of this section, the inspection shall take place only in the presence of the affected representative of a foreign government, or his authorized agent.

[T.D. 73-27, 38 FR 2449, Jan. 26, 1973, as amended by T.D. 89-1, 53 FR 51266, Dec. 21, 1988]

§ 148.83 Diplomatic and consular bags.

(a) *Diplomatic bags.* The contents of diplomatic bags are restricted to diplomatic documents and articles intended exclusively for official use and packages constituting the diplomatic bag must bear visible marks of their character. Diplomatic bags shall not be opened or detained nor shall they be subject to duty or entry.

(b) *Consular bags.* Consular bags must bear visible external marks of their character and their contents are restricted to official correspondence and documents or articles intended exclusively for official use. Consular bags shall not be subject to duty and ordinarily shall not be opened or detained. However, if Customs officers have serious reason to believe that a consular bag contains other than permissible materials, they may request that the bag be opened in their presence by an authorized representative of the foreign government concerned. If this request is refused, the consular bag shall be returned to its place of origin.

§ 148.84 Special treatment for returning individuals.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, an individual returning to the United States from abroad:

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(1) Shall not have his or her baggage and effects admitted free of duty without entry.

(2) Shall not be entitled to expedited Customs examination and clearance of his or her baggage and effects unless the port director finds:

(i) That the individual:

(A) Is seriously ill or infirm;

(B) Was summoned by news of affliction or disaster; or

(C) Is accompanying the body of a deceased relative; or

(ii) That a special circumstance exists which warrants expedited examination and clearance.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term "baggage and effects" means any article which was in the possession of the individual while abroad, is being imported in connection with his or her arrival, and is intended for his or her bona fide personal or household use. This term does not include any article imported as an accommodation to others or for sale or other commercial use.

[T.D. 78-394, 43 FR 49789, Oct. 25, 1978]

§ 148.85 Subsequent importations for the personal or family use of diplomatic, consular and other privileged personnel.

The privilege of importing free of duty and without the filing of any entry articles for personal or family use, but not as an accommodation for others or for sale or other commercial use, shall be granted upon the request of the Department of State and upon appropriate instructions from the United States Customs Service in each instance, to the following:

(a) Ambassadors, ministers, *chargés d'affaires*, secretaries, counselors and attachés of foreign embassies and legations accredited to the United States under subheading 9806.00.40, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) (19 U.S.C. 1202);

(b) Other representatives, officers and employees of foreign governments, under subheading 9806.00.50, HTSUS; and

(c) Other persons designated pursuant to statute or pursuant to treaties between the United States and the

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countries which they represent, under subheading 9806.00.55, HTSUS.

[T.D. 73-27, 38 FR 2449, Jan. 26, 1973, as amended by T.D. 89-1, 53 FR 51266, Dec. 21, 1988]

§ 148.86 Articles for official use of representatives of foreign governments and public international organizations.

Office supplies and equipment and other articles for the official use of members and attaches of foreign embassies and legations, consular officers, and other representatives of foreign governments or of personnel of public international organizations, may be admitted free of duty under subheading 9809.00.20, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, without the filing of an entry, upon the request of the Department of State.

[T.D. 73-27, 38 FR 2449, Jan. 26, 1973, as amended by T.D. 82-145, 47 FR 35478, Aug. 16, 1982; T.D. 89-1, 53 FR 51266, Dec. 21, 1988]

§ 148.87 Officers and employees of, and representatives to public international organizations.

(a) *Exemption for baggage and effects.* The baggage and effects of the alien officers and employees of, or representatives of foreign governments, to the organizations designated by the President as public international organizations pursuant to section 1 of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288), and the baggage and effects of their families, suites, and servants, shall be admitted free of duty and without entry under subheading 9806.00.15, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202), but only upon the receipt in each instance of instructions from the United States Customs Service issued at the request of the Department of State.

(b) *Designated public international organizations.* The President, by virtue of the authority vested in him by section 1 of the International Organizations Immunities Act of December 29, 1945 (22 U.S.C. 288), has designated certain organizations as public international organizations entitled to the free entry privileges of that statute. The following is a list of the public international organizations currently entitled to such free entry privileges and