

Subpart K—Unaccompanied Shipments From American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands of the United States

§ 148.110 Applicability.

The provisions of this subpart are applicable to articles not accompanying a person, including a crewmember, which are purchased in *and* shipped from American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands of the United States. However, this subpart is not applicable to the importation of unaccompanied articles in a manner prohibited by law or regulation (e.g., mail shipments of alcoholic beverages or alcoholic beverages shipped other than by mail in excess of quantities authorized by State laws or regulations).

The following is a summary of the procedure to be followed to obtain the benefits of this subpart: A person purchasing articles in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands of the United States would receive a sales slip, invoice, or other evidence of purchase which he would present to the Customs officer along with his baggage declaration, Customs Form 6059-B, and a Declaration of Unaccompanied Articles, Customs Form 255. The latter form is prepared in triplicate for each shipment to follow. The Customs officer would verify the information, indicate on the form whether the article or articles were free of duty, dutiable at the flat rate, or a combination of the foregoing, and validate the form. Two copies would be returned to the traveler, who would send one form to the vendor. Upon receipt of the form the vendor would place it in an envelope, affix it to the outside of the package, clearly mark the package "Unaccompanied Tourist Shipment," and send the package to the traveler, generally via mail, although it could be sent by other means. If sent through the mail, the package would be examined by Customs and forwarded to the Postal Service for delivery. Any duties due would be collected by the mailman. If the shipment arrives other than through the mail, the traveler would be notified by the carrier when the article arrives. Entry would be made by the carrier or the traveler at the customhouse. Any duties due would be collected at that time.

[T.D. 78–394, 43 FR 49790, Oct. 25, 1978; 43 FR 55758, Nov. 29, 1978; T.D. 97–75, 62 FR 46443, Sept. 3, 1997]

§ 148.111 Written declaration for unaccompanied articles.

The baggage declaration, Customs Form 6059-B, of a person (the crewmembers declaration, Customs Form 5129, in the case of a returning crewmember) arriving directly or indirectly from American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands of the United States shall be in writing if it covers articles which do not accompany him and:

(a) The articles are entitled to free entry under the \$1,200 exemption provided by subheading 9804.00.70, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) (19 U.S.C. 1202), or

(b) The articles are noncommercial importations of limited value subject to a flat rate of duty under subheading 9816.00.40, HTSUS.

[T.D. 78–394, 43 FR 49790, Oct. 25, 1978, as amended by T.D. 86–118, 51 FR 22516, June 20, 1986; T.D. 89–1, 53 FR 51267, Dec. 21, 1988; T.D. 97–75, 62 FR 46443, Sept. 3, 1997]

§ 148.112 Evidence of purchase.

A sales slip, invoice, or other evidence of purchase, shall be presented with the declaration for all unaccompanied articles.

[T.D. 78–394, 43 FR 49790, Oct. 25, 1978]

§ 148.113 Declaration, entry, and collection of duty.

(a) *Declaration and entry for unaccompanied articles*—(1) *Declaration.* A baggage declaration covering articles for which a claim of free entry, in whole or in part, is made under the \$1,200 exemption provided by subheading 9804.00.70, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) (19 U.S.C. 1202), or a baggage or crewmembers declaration covering articles for which the flat rate of duty provision of subheading 9816.00.40, HTSUS appears to be applicable, shall be accompanied by a Declaration of Unaccompanied Articles, Customs Form 255. Customs Form 255 shall be prepared in triplicate by the vendor or declarant for each shipment of declared articles not accompanying the person. A shipment consists of one or more packages or containers sent as a unit.

(2) *Verification.* The Customs officer shall verify the information from the declaration, sales slip, invoice, or other evidence of purchase furnished by the person. The completed Customs Form 255 shall be validated by the Customs officer and two copies given to the person.

(b) *Collection of duty.* Duties shall be collected before release of the articles, after their arrival in the United States, as provided in §145.12 or §148.115.

[T.D. 78–394, 43 FR 49790, Oct. 25, 1978, as amended by T.D. 86–118, 51 FR 22516, June 20, 1986; T.D. 89–1, 53 FR 51267, Dec. 21, 1988; T.D. 93–66, 58 FR 44131, Aug. 19, 1993; T.D. 97–75, 62 FR 46443, Sept. 3, 1997]

§ 148.114 Shipment of unaccompanied articles.

One copy of the validated Customs Form 255 shall be returned to the vendor. The vendor shall place the form in an envelope, affix it to the outside of the shipment, and clearly mark the outside of the shipment "Unaccompanied Tourist Shipment."

[T.D. 78–394, 43 FR 49790, Oct. 25, 1978]

§ 148.115 Release of shipment.

(a) *Release after examination.* Unaccompanied tourist shipments:

(1) To which the personal exemption provided in subheading 9804.00.70, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) (19 U.S.C. 1202), is applicable, or

(2) For which entry is made under the flat rate of duty provisions of subheading 9816.00.40, HTSUS, or under those provisions in conjunction with the regular rate of duty provision of another subheading of the tariff schedule, shall be released if:

(i) The shipment is properly marked and accompanied by a validated copy of Customs Form 255,

(ii) The examining Customs officer is satisfied that the contents of the shipment are as stated on the Customs Form 255 and, if applicable, that they are properly classified,

(iii) The declared value conforms to the fair retail value in the country of acquisition, and

(iv) In respect to shipments for which entry is made under subheading 9816.00.40, HTSUS, any duties found to be due are paid.

(b) *Removal of Customs Form 255.* The copy of Customs Form 255 attached to the shipment shall be removed by the Customs officer and retained for Customs purposes.

(c) *Missing Customs Form 255.* If a validated copy of Customs Form 255 does not accompany the shipment, entry shall be made under the provisions of part 141 or 145 of this chapter.

(d) *Restricted or prohibited shipments.* No shipment containing prohibited or restricted merchandise for which exemption is claimed under subheading 9804.00.70, HTSUS, or for which entry is claimed under subheading 9816.00.40, HTSUS, shall be released except upon compliance with the provisions of part 12 and §§145.51 through 145.59 of this chapter, and other applicable laws and regulations.

(e) *Verification of claim.* The port director may withhold release of any shipment for which exemption is claimed under subheading 9804.00.70, HTSUS, or for which entry is

claimed under subheading 9816.00.40, HTSUS, to verify the validity of the claim. If he is unable to verify the claim, the merchandise shall be released under the provisions of part 141 or 145 of this chapter.

[T.D. 78-394, 43 FR 49790, Oct. 25, 1978; 43 FR 55758, Nov. 29, 1978, as amended by T.D. 89-1, 53 FR 51267, Dec. 21, 1988; T.D. 93-66, 58 FR 44131, Aug. 19, 1993; T.D. 95-78, 60 FR 50035, Sept. 27, 1995]

§ 148.116 Claim for refund.

Any person who has filed a declaration of unaccompanied articles under §§148.112 and 148.113 and who is dissatisfied with the amount of duty assessed on the articles upon their arrival in the United States may file a claim for administrative review under subpart C, part 145, of this chapter if the articles arrived by mail, or under parts 173 and 174 if the articles arrived other than by mail. Any supporting documents, including a copy of Customs Form 255, should be submitted with the claim.

[T.D. 78-394, 43 FR 49790, Oct. 25, 1978; 43 FR 55758, Nov. 29, 1978]