



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

PORT OF CHICAGO PIPELINE

NO. 96-21

May 29, 1996

TO : Customhouse Brokers, Importers and Others Concerned

SUBJECT: Policy for the Handling of Entries for Hand-Carried Merchandise Arriving at the International Arrivals Building (IAB)

In the past there has been much confusion attributable to entries being filed via ABI for passengers carrying commercial merchandise that do not arrive on a designated flight. The issue then becomes one of a filer requesting a deletion of an entry without verifiable proof that the passenger in question did not arrive, or the entry appears on Custom's unresolved entry report which results in the same situation. This document is aimed at lessening the confusion that surrounds these events.

To avoid unnecessary complications, entry filers SHOULD NOT file entries that contain nine or less line items (contained on first page of CF 3461) via ABI prior to the arrival of the passenger. If the entry has more than 9 line items (continuation page(s) of CF 3461 needed) the filer should go ahead and file the entry via ABI. This policy will avoid many of the conflicts that arise due to the entry being present in the ACS system and the passenger not arriving.

In cases where the entry has been filed via ABI, and the filer has reason to believe that the passenger/merchandise did not arrive, IAB personnel should not be pressed to immediately research the situation. Instead, on the next business day, the filer should contact the Document Analysis Unit (DAU) Supervisor or Senior Inspector at Liberty Business Park. The phone numbers are (847)616-4080, ext 117. They will determine whether or not the passenger in question did arrive.

If there is verification that the person did arrive, a release will be issued and the filer will have 10 days to file the entry summary. In addition, the passenger may be subject to failure to declare penalty action. If the filer recognizes that the passenger did indeed arrive, but disputes whether the merchandise actually accompanied the passenger, they may obtain a letter from the importer regarding the circumstances of the incident and the disposition of the merchandise for Customs review. This should also be the approach to take in those instances when the entry filer does not know the name of the passenger carrying the merchandise and is unable to make contact with the person at the IAB.

If no verification can be found that the person did arrive, the entry will be deleted from the system. Questions regarding this matter can be obtained by contacting Chief Inspector Ron Mensch at (847) 616-4080, ext 112. To verify if passenger submitted a Customs duty declaration, contact a PSR (Passenger Service Representative) at Customs O'Hare, 773-894-2866

Richard Roster
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