

U.S.C. 1557), but including merchandise entered for transportation in bond or for exportation) which remains in Customs custody for 6 months from the date of importation or a lesser period for special merchandise as provided by § 127.28 (c), (d), and (h), and without all estimated duties and storage or other charges having been paid, shall be considered unclaimed and abandoned.

(Sec. 491, 46 Stat. 726, as amended; (19 U.S.C. 1491))

[T.D. 79-221, 44 FR 46814, Aug. 9, 1979, as amended by T.D. 98-74, 63 FR 51290, Sept. 25, 1998]

#### § 127.12 Abandoned merchandise.

(a) *Involuntarily abandoned merchandise.* The following shall be considered to be involuntarily abandoned merchandise:

(1) Articles entered for a trade fair under the provisions of section 3 of the Trade Fair Act of 1959 (19 U.S.C. 1752), which are still in Customs custody at the expiration of 3 months after the closing date of the fair for which they were entered. (See § 147.47 of this chapter.)

(2) Any imported merchandise upon which any duties or charges are unpaid, remaining in a bonded warehouse beyond the 5-year warehouse period.

(b) *Voluntarily abandoned merchandise.* The following merchandise shall be considered to be voluntarily abandoned merchandise and the property of the United States Government:

(1) Merchandise which is taken possession of by the port director at the request of the consignee, or owner or master of the vessel or person in charge of the vehicle in which the merchandise was imported.

(2) Merchandise abandoned by the importer to the United States within 30 days after entry in the case of merchandise not sent to the public stores for examination, or within 30 days after the release of the examination packages or merchandise in the case of merchandise sent to the public stores for examination.

(3) Articles entered for a trade fair under the provisions of section 3 of the Trade Fair Act of 1959 (19 U.S.C. 1752), which have been abandoned to the United States within 3 months of the closing of the fair.

(4) Merchandise in a bonded warehouse abandoned by the consignee within 3 years from the date of original importation. (See subpart D of part 158 of this chapter.)

(Secs. 490, 506, 559, 563, 46 Stat. 726, as amended, 732, as amended, 744, as amended, 746, as amended, sec. 4, 73 Stat. 18; (19 U.S.C. 1490, 1506, 1559, 1563, 1753))

[T.D. 74-114, 39 FR 12092, Apr. 3, 1974, as amended by T.D. 79-221, 44 FR 46814, Aug. 9, 1979]

#### § 127.13 Storage of unclaimed and abandoned merchandise.

(a) *Place of storage.* Unclaimed and abandoned merchandise shall be sent under a permit to a class 1 warehouse (public store) or to a suitable warehouse of class 3, 4, or 5 specially designated for the purpose by the port director. If no warehouse of these classes is available, the port director may, with the approval of the Commissioner of Customs, rent suitable premises in a class 2 warehouse. (For permit to discharge unclaimed cargo which is not unladen see § 4.37(f) of this chapter.)

(b) *Payment of storage and expenses.* Storage at the ordinary rates and all other expenses shall be paid by the owner or consignee of the merchandise upon entry thereof. If the goods are sold, such charges shall be paid from the proceeds of the sale to the extent that proceeds are available.

(Sec. 490, 46 Stat. 726, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1490))

#### § 127.14 Disposition of merchandise in Customs custody beyond time fixed by law.

(a) *Merchandise subject to sale.* If storage or other charges due the United States have not been paid on merchandise remaining in Customs custody after the expiration of the bond period in the case of merchandise entered for warehouse, or after the expiration of the general order period, as defined in § 127.4, in any other case, even though any duties due have been paid, such merchandise shall be sold as provided for in subpart C of this part unless entered or withdrawn for consumption in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Entry of merchandise subject to sale.* Merchandise subject to sale (except

merchandise abandoned under section 506(1) or 563(b), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1506(1), 1563(b))), may be entered or withdrawn for consumption at any time prior to the sale upon payment of the duties, any internal revenue tax, and all charges and expenses that may have accrued thereon. Such merchandise may not be exported without payment of duty nor entered for warehouse.

(c) *Release of merchandise to warehouse proprietor.* The following merchandise for which a permit to release has been issued shall be held to be no longer in the custody of Customs officers and shall be released to the warehouse proprietor:

(1) Merchandise upon which all duties and charges have been paid.

(2) Free and duty-paid merchandise upon which all charges have been paid, not entered for warehouse which remains in bonded warehouse for more than the general order period.

(Secs. 491, 559, 46 Stat. 726, as amended, 744, as amended; (19 U.S.C. 1491, 1559); R.S. 251, as amended, secs. 311, 312, 555, 556, 557, 623, 624, 646a, 46 Stat. 691, as amended, 692, as amended, 743, as amended, 744, as amended, 759, as amended, 67 Stat. 520 (19 U.S.C. 66, 1311, 1312, 1555, 1556, 1557, 1623, 1624, 1646a))

[T.D. 74-114, 39 FR 12092, Apr. 3, 1974, as amended by T.D. 75-161, 40 FR 28790, July 9, 1975; T.D. 79-221, 44 FR 46814, Aug. 9, 1979; T.D. 82-204, 47 FR 49375, Nov. 1, 1982]

### Subpart C—Sale of Unclaimed and Abandoned Merchandise

#### § 127.21 Time of sale.

All unclaimed and abandoned merchandise shall be sold at the first regular sale held after the merchandise becomes subject to sale, unless a deferment of its sale is authorized by the Commissioner of Customs. Regular sales shall be made once every year or more often at the discretion of the port director.

(Secs. 491, 559, 46 Stat. 726, as amended, 744, as amended, sec. 4, 73 Stat. 18; (19 U.S.C. 1491, 1559, 1753))

#### § 127.22 Place of sale.

The port director, in his discretion, may authorize the sale of merchandise subject to sale (including explosives, perishable articles and articles liable

to depreciation) at any port. The consignee of any merchandise which is to be transferred from the port where it was imported to another port for sale, shall be notified of the transfer so that he may have the option of making entry of the merchandise before the transfer and sale.

[T.D. 95-77, 60 FR 50020, Sept. 27, 1995]

#### § 127.23 Appraisal of merchandise.

Before unclaimed and abandoned merchandise is offered for sale, it shall be appraised in accordance with sections 402 and 402a, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1401a, 1402). Such merchandise shall also be appraised at its actual domestic value in its condition at the time and place of examination, whether or not it has depreciated or appreciated in value since the date of exportation. The quantity of merchandise in each lot shall be reported.

(Secs. 491, 559, 46 Stat. 726, as amended, 744, as amended; (19 U.S.C. 1491, 1559))

#### § 127.24 Notice of sale.

Notice of sale shall be sent on Customs Form 5251, 30 days prior to the date of sale, or 30 days prior to the transfer of merchandise to the place of sale, to the following:

- (a) Importer, if known; or
- (b) Consignee, if name and address can be ascertained; or
- (c) Shipper, his representative or agent, if merchandise is consigned to order or consignee cannot be ascertained; or
- (d) Warehouse transferee; or
- (e) Lienholder.

(Secs. 491, 559, 46 Stat. 726, as amended, 744, as amended; (19 U.S.C. 1491, 1559))

#### § 127.25 Advertisement of sale.

(a) *Regular advertising.* Except as prescribed in § 127.28 (c), (d), and (h), and in paragraph (b) of this section, a brief notice of the time and place of sale shall be given for three successive weeks, immediately preceding the sale, in one newspaper of extensive circulation published at the port where the sale is to be held. The newspaper is to be selected by the port director and publication of the notice shall be authorized on the standard form provided