

(a) Pursuant to duly issued search warrant or an administrative inspection warrant; or

(b) Upon the consent of the distributor to enter his premises.

PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES

§ 296.154 Penalties.

(a) Any person who knowingly ships, transports, receives, possesses, sells, distributes, or purchases contraband cigarettes shall be fined not more than \$100,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(b) Any person who knowingly violates any regulation contained in this subpart or makes any false statement or misrepresentation with respect to the information required to be recorded by this subpart shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

§ 296.155 Forfeitures.

(a) Any contraband cigarettes involved in any violation of the provisions of 18 U.S.C. chapter 114 shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture. All provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (title 26 U.S.C.) relating to the seizure, forfeiture, and disposition of firearms, as defined in section 5845(a) of that Code, shall, so far as applicable, extend to seizures and forfeitures of contraband cigarettes under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. chapter 114.

(b) Any vessel, vehicle or aircraft used to transport, carry, convey, or conceal or possess any contraband cigarettes with respect to which there has been committed any violation of any provision of 18 U.S.C. chapter 114 or the regulations in this subpart shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture under the Customs laws, as provided by the Act of August 9, 1939 (49 U.S.C. 781–788).

(18 U.S.C. 2344; 53 Stat. 1291 (49 U.S.C. 782))

Subpart G—Dealers in Tobacco Products

SOURCE: T.D. 6573, 26 FR 8202, Aug. 31, 1961, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 40 FR 16835, Apr. 15, 1975.

§ 296.161 Scope of subpart.

The regulations in this subpart relate to the purchase, receipt, possession, offering for sale, or sale or other disposition of tobacco products by dealers in such products.

[T.D. 6871, 81 FR 60, Jan. 4, 1966. Redesignated at 40 FR 16835, Apr. 15, 1975 and amended by T.D. ATF-232, 51 FR 28092, Aug. 5, 1986; T.D. ATF-243, 51 FR 43194, Dec. 1, 1986]

§ 296.162 Territorial extent.

The provisions of the regulations in this subpart shall apply in the several States of the United States and the District of Columbia.

§ 296.163 Meaning of terms.

When used in this subpart, where not otherwise distinctly expressed or manifestly incompatible with the intent thereof, each of the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed in this section. Words in the plural form shall include the singular, words in the singular form shall include the plural, and words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine. The terms “includes” and “including” do not exclude things not enumerated which are in the same general class.

ATF officer. An officer or employee of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) authorized to perform any function relating to the administration or enforcement of this subpart.

Dealer. Any person who sells, or offers for sale, at wholesale or retail levels, any cigars or cigarettes after removal.

Manufacturer of tobacco products. Any person who manufactures cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, or pipe tobacco, except that such term shall not include (a) a person who produces cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, or pipe tobacco solely for his own personal consumption or use; or (b) a proprietor of a Customs bonded manufacturing warehouse with respect to the operation of such warehouse.

Package. The container in which tobacco products are put up by the manufacturer or the importer and offered for delivery to the consumer.

Person. An individual, partnership, association, company, corporation, estate, or trust.

Removal or remove. The removal of tobacco products from the factory or release from Customs custody, including the smuggling or other unlawful importation of such articles into the United States.

Tobacco products. Cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and pipe tobacco. The term does not include smoking tobacco that is not suitable for use or likely to be offered to, or purchased by consumers, as tobacco to be smoked in a pipe.

U.S.C. The United States Code.

[T.D. 6573, 26 FR 8202, Aug. 31, 1961, as amended by T.D. 6871, 31 FR 60, Jan. 4, 1966. Redesignated at 40 FR 16835, Apr. 15, 1975]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting § 296.163, see the List of CFR Sections Affected in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

§ 296.164 Authority of ATF officers to enter premises.

Any ATF officer may enter in the daytime any premises where tobacco products are kept or stored, so far as it may be necessary for the purpose of examining such products. When such premises are open at night, any ATF officer may enter them, while so open, in the performance of his official duties. The owner of such premises, or person having the superintendence of the same, who refuses to admit any ATF officer or permit him to examine such products shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by law for the offense. Operators of vending machines shall make the tobacco products in their machines available for inspection upon the request of any ATF officer.

(68A Stat. 872, 903; 26 U.S.C. 7342, 7606)

[T.D. 6871, 31 FR 60, Jan. 4, 1966. Redesignated at 40 FR 16835, Apr. 15, 1975 and amended by T.D. ATF-232, 51 FR 28092, Aug. 5, 1986; T.D. ATF-243, 51 FR 43194, Dec. 1, 1986]

§ 296.165 Interference with administration.

Whoever, corruptly or by force or threats of force, endeavors to hinder or obstruct the administration of this subpart, or endeavors to intimidate or impede any ATF officer acting in his official capacity, or forcibly rescues or attempts to rescue or causes to be rescued any property, after it has been duly seized for forfeiture to the United

States in connection with a violation of the internal revenue laws, shall be liable to the penalties prescribed by law.

(68A Stat. 855; 26 U.S.C. 7212)

§ 296.166 Dealing in tobacco products.

All tobacco products purchased, received, possessed, offered for sale, sold or otherwise disposed of, by any dealer must be in proper packages which bear the mark and notice as prescribed in parts 270 and 275 of this chapter. Tobacco products may be sold, or offered for sale, at retail from such packages, provided the products remain in the packages until removed by the customer or in the presence of the customer. Where a vending machine is used, tobacco products must similarly be vended in proper packages or directly from such packages.

(72 Stat. 1424; 26 U.S.C. 5751)

[T.D. 6871, 31 FR 60, Jan. 4, 1966. Redesignated at 40 FR 16835, Apr. 15, 1975 and amended by T.D. ATF-232, 51 FR 28092, Aug. 5, 1986; T.D. ATF-243, 51 FR 43194, Dec. 1, 1986]

§ 296.167 Liability to tax.

Any dealer who, with intent to defraud the United States, possesses tobacco products (a) upon which the tax has not been paid or determined in the manner and at the time prescribed in parts 270 and 275 of this chapter or (b) which, after removal without payment of tax pursuant to section 5704, I.R.C., and regulations issued thereunder, have been diverted from the applicable purpose or use specified in that section or (c) which are not put up in packages prescribed in parts 270 and 275 of this chapter or are put up in packages not bearing the marks and notices prescribed in such regulations shall be liable for a tax equal to the tax on such products.

(72 Stat. 1424; 26 U.S.C. 5751)

[T.D. 6871, 31 FR 60, Jan. 4, 1966. Redesignated at 40 FR 16835, Apr. 15, 1975 and amended by T.D. ATF-232, 51 FR 28092, Aug. 5, 1986; T.D. ATF-243, 51 FR 43194, Dec. 1, 1986]

§ 296.168 Liability to penalties and forfeitures.

Any dealer who fails to comply with the provisions of this subpart becomes