

**§ 101-40.711-2**

services. Earlier collection by setoff may be made if it is known that a carrier is involved in a bankruptcy, insolvency, or relocation proceeding, and it is clearly in the Government's interest to do so (4 CFR parts 102 through 105).

[51 FR 24343, July 3, 1986]

**§ 101-40.711-2 Claims against ocean and international air carriers.**

Regulations of the General Accounting Office (chapter 13, §86.1, GAO Policy and Procedures Manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies) require that:

(a) When a loss or damage for which the carrier is administratively determined to be liable has occurred in an ocean or international air shipment, effort should be made to withhold an amount sufficient to reimburse the Government for the loss or damage from the carrier's bill covering the charges for the transportation or related services on the same shipment. If this is not possible, the withholding should be made from a payment due the carrier on an unrelated account. Notice to the carrier of withholding should request the carrier's consent to such action.

(b) If the carrier does not consent to the withholding action prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section, or if the claim is not otherwise compromised or withdrawn in accordance with 4 CFR part 103 or 104, referral of the matter shall be made to the Department of Justice for consideration of the need for suit to reduce the Government's claim to judgment. The referral shall be made at least 90 calendar days prior to the expiration of the 1-year period for bringing suit against ocean carriers (46 U.S.C. 1303(6)) or the 2-year period for bringing suit against international air carriers (Article 29 of the Warsaw Convention; 49 Stat. 3021).

[38 FR 28680, Oct. 16, 1973, as amended at 42 FR 25861, May 20, 1977; 51 FR 24343, July 3, 1986]

**§ 101-40.712 Referral of loss and damage claims to the General Accounting Office or to the Department of Justice.**

Loss and damage claims which cannot be collected, compromised, or terminated in accordance with 4 CFR parts 102 through 104 shall be deter-

**41 CFR Ch. 101 (7-1-00 Edition)**

mined uncollectible and reported to the General Accounting Office or the Department of Justice for appropriate action under criteria established by GAO under 4 CFR part 105.

[51 FR 24343, July 3, 1986]

**§ 101-40.713 Clearing carriers of liability.**

When it is determined as the result of investigation or evidence submitted by a carrier that loss or damage to a Government shipment is not the responsibility of the carrier, the consignee shall take necessary steps to clear the carrier of liability and to withdraw or amend any claim which may have been filed for recovery of losses. In this regard, the consignee shall prepare a document which will effectively remove or amend any exception that had been noted on the carrier's delivery documents. While no precise form or format is prescribed, this document shall be prepared in sufficient detail to identify the shipment and to show the basis for relieving the carrier of liability. This includes

(a) A reference to the Government bill of lading number or other transportation document;

(b) A detailed description of the property shipped;

(c) A reference to the exception taken to the quantity or condition of the property delivered;

(d) The number and date of any claim which has been filed with the carrier; and

(e) The basis on which the exception or claim is being withdrawn.

The consignee shall forward the original of this document to the carrier against whom the claim has been filed (or, in case the claim has not yet been filed, to the carrier that is billing for transportation charges or related services), and a copy shall be attached to the blue memorandum copy (Memorandum Copy-Consignee) of the bill of lading. In addition, the consignee shall send copies of the document to other offices involved in the initial claim action. (See the GSA handbook, Discrepancies or Deficiencies in GSA or DOD Shipments, Material, or Billings (subpart 101-26.8), for reports required in