MANUAL: Personnel Chapter Series CC--Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual Part 2--Commissioned Corps Personnel Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Public Health Service

Chapter CC24--Travel and Transportation Subchapter CC24.6--Transportation of Household Goods Personnel INSTRUCTION 1--General Information About Shipment of Household Goods

CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	Subject	<u>Page</u>
Α.	Purpose and Scope	1
В.	Authority	2
С.	Definitions	2
D.	Responsibility	2
Exhibit I	Form PHS-4013-1, "Application for Shipment o Household Goods"	f 7
Exhibit II	Form PHS-4086, "Carrier's Performance Report	" 8

Section A. Purpose and Scope

- 1. This INSTRUCTION provides general information about transportation of household goods and personal effects, both domestic and foreign, of members of the Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps when moving at Government expense on Government bills of lading. It provides for the establishment of household goods shipping officers within PHS.
- 2. These provisions are applicable to designated PHS shipping officers at headquarters and field installations who arrange for transportation of household goods and personal effects belonging to commissioned officers. These INSTRUCTIONS also provide general guidance to administrative personnel in agencies other than PHS who will handle shipments for PHS commissioned officers detailed to their agencies, and to commissioned officers who must act as their own shipping officer.

PAGE 2 PHS PERSONNEL INSTRUCTION 1 C24.6 SHIPMENT OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Section B. Authority

The basic authorities for the transportation allowances described in this subchapter are contained in 37 U. S. Code, Section 406. The Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR), Volume 1, Chapter 5, provides the authority for members of the uniformed services to transport household goods and personal effects at Government expense, within the framework of decisions of the General Accounting Office (GAO). The INSTRUCTIONs contained in this subchapter are intended to supplement the JFTR and provide guidance not found in the JFTR. In cases where the provisions of this subchapter are contrary to the provisions of the JFTR, the latter shall be the controlling document.

Section C. Definitions

For purposes of this INSTRUCTION, the terms defined in this section shall apply throughout this subchapter, unless specifically defined differently in a particular instance.

- 1. <u>Household Goods</u>. This term is understood to include the term "personal effects," and shall have the meaning given to "Household Goods" in Appendix A of the JFTR. The JFTR definition includes a list of specific items which may not be considered household goods for the purposes of shipment at Government expense.
- 2. <u>PHS Component</u>. This identifies the PHS Agencies, staff offices and regional offices, and the various installations within their respective jurisdictions.
- 3. <u>Shipping Officer</u>. In the general sense, this is an individual within a PHS component who is responsible for making arrangements for the transportation of the household goods of PHS commissioned officers. Where necessary, these INSTRUCTIONs will specify a specific shipping officer to be used for certain shipments.

Section D. Responsibility

- The Division of Commissioned Personnel (DCP), Office of the Surgeon General, coordinating, when appropriate, with the PHS components and their respective financial management offices, shall:
 - a. Develop, prescribe, and issue PHS traffic management policies and procedures for the transportation of household goods and personal effects for members of the PHS Commissioned Corps when moving at Government expense;
 - b. Interpret applicable transportation directives and instructions of the JFTR, GAO, and transportation regulatory agencies; and
 - c. Provide staff assistance in the area of transportation, as necessary.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES T.S. PHS-CC 536

- 2. The PHS component financial management offices and field accounting points will be responsible for auditing carriers' bills of lading for transportation charges to assure that payment of charges by PHS are limited to authorized allowances and entitlements.
- 3. The Personnel Services Branch, DCP, is responsible for providing interpretation of entitlements within the JFTR in situations requiring explanation beyond the knowledge of local personnel or administrative offices.
- 4. The Transactions and Applications Branch, DCP, is responsible for:
 - a. Issuance of personnel orders directing a permanent change of station which provides:
 - Entitlement to shipment and/or local drayage of household goods, if appropriate;
 - (2) Appropriate fiscal information;
 - (3) Points between which transportation is authorized, thus establishing maximum distance goods may be shipped at Government expense; and
 - (4) Entitlement to additional temporary storage or nontemporary storage when indicated.
 - b. Directing affected officers on permanent change of station to the appropriate shipping officer; and
 - c. Furnishing informative material and necessary forms related to shipment of household goods to members of the commissioned corps upon being called to duty.
- 5. The PHS components will be responsible for implementing the household goods shipment program within their respective areas. As a matter of general policy, each major PHS installation, outside the Washington, D.C. area, having shipping capabilities will provide household goods shipping service for other PHS activities located in the same general vicinity, regardless of component affiliation. This may consist of:
 - a. Providing for a shipping officer within the headquarters;
 - b. Requiring the assumption of household goods shipment responsibility at installations having existing capabilities for the shipment of Government property;
 - c. Arranging for another PHS component to provide shipping services;
 - d. Any combination of the above;

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

T.S. PHS-CC 536

- 6. Officers in charge of PHS field installations shall:
 - a. Be responsible for overall implementation of the household goods shipment program at their stations; and
 - b. Establish a central shipping office for household goods shipments. This responsibility, if possible, will be assigned to a shipping officer who otherwise is responsible for shipping Government property. This responsibility will not be reassigned except at large installations where the volume of household goods shipments warrants the designation of a separate shipping officer for that purpose.
- 7. Upon receipt of form PHS-4013-1, "Application for Shipment of Household Goods" (Exhibit I), shipping officers and/or their alternates shall be responsible for:
 - a. Selecting the mode of transport and carrier (unless the owner of the goods requests a specific carrier within the selected mode) that will provide the required service at the most economical cost overall to the Government;
 - b. Preparing Government bills of lading (see INSTRUCTION 4, CC24.6, "Government Bills of Lading"), completing form PHS-1672, "Authorization for Storage of Household Goods - Temporary-Nontemporary" (see INSTRUCTION 7, CC24.6, "Nontemporary Storage"), and related documents to facilitate shipments;
 - c. Insuring that Government bills of lading are issued only for official purposes on the basis of official orders that authorize transportation at Government expense, and that appropriate records are maintained of such issuance;
 - d. Avoiding discrimination or undue preference or advantage in selection of carrier agents. (To the best of their ability, shipping officers shall make equitable distribution of household goods shipments among carrier agents used who provide high-quality service at the lowest overall cost to the Government.) This provision does not preclude the avoidance of certain carrier agents who have demonstrated that they cannot or will not provide satisfactory service;
 - e. Determining that carriers used have adequate facilities at origin and destination to service shipment satisfactorily;
 - f. Utilizing the services of a sufficient number of qualified carriers to provide reasonable assurance of adequate capability, availability, and service during peak shipping periods;

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES T.S. PHS-CC 536

- g. Determining that carriers used for domestic shipments are parties to household goods Military Rate Tenders and reference to such tenders is noted appropriately on Government bills of lading;
- h. Arranging, when necessary, with the State Department Dispatch Agents for transportation of household goods and personal effects to points outside the continental United States;
- i. Securing confirmation, in writing, of the charges to apply or applicable tariff on shipments from the continental United States to overseas points, including Alaska and Hawaii, from the carrier who will provide the required service at the lowest overall cost to the Government. A copy of such confirmation should be attached to the portion of the Government bill of lading forwarded to the accounting point responsible for payment of charges;
- j. Requesting destination shipping officers, when appropriate, to arrange for reweighing shipments upon arrival at destination. (Origin shipping officers may make such requests occasionally to insure against irregularities, or upon well founded requests by property owners.) When the weight at destination is less than the weight recorded on the bill of lading at origin, the destination shipping officer will advise the appropriate accounting point to ensure that carrier's billing is based on the lower of the two weights. The origin shipping officer should also be advised so that appropriate notation can be made on the copy of the Government bill of lading;
- k. Maintaining quality control information on household goods shipments by use of form PHS-4086, "Carrier's Performance Report" (Exhibit II). These forms should be reviewed and discussed with individual carrier agents when performance and service need to be improved or when a carrier agent is deleted from the roster of agents to be used;
- Determining the amount of excess costs to be collected from a member of the commissioned corps and collecting such costs prior to the member's departure from his/her duty station if appropriate (see INSTRUCTION 8, Subchapter CC24.6, "Excess Costs of the Shipment of Household Goods and Personal Effects").
- m. Referring questions related to entitlements or interpretation of the JFTR for which answers cannot be obtained from local administrative or finance offices, through the appropriate Agency Commissioned Corps Liaison, to the PHS/ Military Advisory Panel Member, Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Committee, located in DCP, Room 4-35, Parklawn Building, Rockville, Maryland 20857;
- n. Resolving, to the extent possible, difficulties relating to transportation in connection with shipments arriving at their stations. In the event a

specific transportation problem cannot be resolved by the destination shipping officer, it will be referred to the shipping officer at the station where shipment originated;

- Maintaining liaison with other shipping officers within PHS on matters concerning mutual problems, transportation rates, and other transportation information relating to the movement of household goods;
- p. Referring questions of policy and procedure not covered by official instructions in the Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM), or requests for interpretation of CCPM instructions, through appropriate channels, to the Shipping Officer, Division of Technical Services/OD, National Institutes of Health, Room B1C02, Building 31, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20892.

In addition to the responsibilities enumerated herein, shipping officers should acquire a working knowledge of the JFTR and the HHS Voucher Audit Manual insofar as they pertain to the transportation of household goods and personal effects.

EXHIBIT I

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES T.S. PHS-CC 536 5/17/91

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EXHIBIT II

NEALTH AND HEALAN BERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH BERVICES

			RIANCE REPORT				
FD: (Name and address of owner)			FROM: [Nome and address of shipping officer;				
·							
Your household goods were	e scheduled for shipmen	:					
FROM		On (date of pi	(f-14)	VIA (riams of carrier)			
FOR DELIVERY TO				CARRIER'S ASEMT AT ORIGIN	<u> </u>		
		ON (date far di	li rary)	CARRIER'S AGENT AT DESTINATION			
In order that we may evalu	ate the services provide	d you by the at		d carrier, it is requested that you furnish this	office with		
the following information a		a save been d		ELIVERED TO NEW RESIDENCE	<u></u>		
· <u>····································</u>		YES NO	<u> </u>		YES NO		
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If "yes," was storage at y	nan redreer;	\Box	AT	RIGINT			
2. WERE HOUSEHOLD GOODS DELIVERED ON SCHEDULED DATE?			9. WER CAR	E GENERAL CONTENTS INDICATED ON ALL TONS PACKED BY CARRIER?			
1. WERE CARRIER PERSONNEL			10. WER	E ARTICLES CLEARLY MARKED OR TAGGED			
	AT DRIGINT		CON	DITION LIST?			
. COURTEOUS	AT DESTINATION		1	CARRIER FURNISH & LEGIOLE COPY OF			
6. PRESENTABLE IN APPEARANCE	AT DRIGINT			OMPLETED INVENTORY AND CONDITION LIST			
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AHREDDED PAPER, EXCELSIOR, NEWSPAPER ETC,) USED TO PACK DISHES AND GLASSWARE?			13, WAS OR D	PROPERTY DELIVERED WITHOUT LOSS			
& DID CARRIER UNPACK ALL CARRIER-PACKED ARTICLES (unless otherwise requested)?			lf nor deliv				
7. DID CARRIER PLACE HOUSEHOLD GOODS IN APPROPRIATE ROOMS AT HEW RESIDENCE AS DIRECTED?			Has official claim form been filed with deliverin carrier?		C D		
memanus (Explain negative s	aswers. If additional space	is required use	teverse a	ide.)			
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DATE HGNATURE

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