

**(b) Appeals**

A person may appeal an adverse interpretive ruling and any interpretation of any regulation prescribed to implement such ruling to a higher level of authority within the Customs Service for de novo review. Upon a reasonable showing of business necessity, any such appeal shall be considered and decided no later than 60 days following the date on which the appeal is filed. The Secretary shall issue regulations to implement this subsection.

**(c) Modification and revocation**

A proposed interpretive ruling or decision which would—

(1) modify (other than to correct a clerical error) or revoke a prior interpretive ruling or decision which has been in effect for at least 60 days; or

(2) have the effect of modifying the treatment previously accorded by the Customs Service to substantially identical transactions;

shall be published in the Customs Bulletin. The Secretary shall give interested parties an opportunity to submit, during not less than the 30-day period after the date of such publication, comments on the correctness of the proposed ruling or decision. After consideration of any comments received, the Secretary shall publish a final ruling or decision in the Customs Bulletin within 30 days after the closing of the comment period. The final ruling or decision shall become effective 60 days after the date of its publication.

**(d) Publication of customs decisions that limit court decisions**

A decision that proposes to limit the application of a court decision shall be published in the Customs Bulletin together with notice of opportunity for public comment thereon prior to a final decision.

**(e) Public information**

The Secretary may make available in writing or through electronic media, in an efficient, comprehensive and timely manner, all information, including directives, memoranda, electronic messages and telexes which contain instructions, requirements, methods or advice necessary for importers and exporters to comply with the Customs<sup>1</sup> laws and regulations. All information which may be made available pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to any exemption from disclosure provided by section 552 of title 5.

(June 17, 1930, ch. 497, title IV, § 625, as added Pub. L. 95-410, title I, § 112, Oct. 3, 1978, 92 Stat. 898; amended Pub. L. 103-182, title VI, § 623, Dec. 8, 1993, 107 Stat. 2186; Pub. L. 104-295, § 21(e)(14), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3531.)

## AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-295 made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to “this chapter”.

1993—Pub. L. 103-182 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section read as follows: “Within 120

days after issuing any precedential decision (including any ruling letter, internal advice memorandum, or protest review decision) under this chapter with respect to any customs transaction, the Secretary shall have such decision published in the Customs Bulletin or shall otherwise make such decision available for public inspection.”

## TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the United States Customs Service of the Department of the Treasury, including functions of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 203(1), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

## STUDY AND REPORT RELATING TO TIMELINESS OF PROSPECTIVE RULINGS

Pub. L. 107-210, div. A, title III, § 335, Aug. 6, 2002, 116 Stat. 978, required the Comptroller General, not later than 1 year after Aug. 6, 2002, to conduct a study and report to committees of Congress on the extent to which the Office of Regulations and Rulings of the Customs Service had made improvements to decrease the time between requests for, and issuance of, prospective rulings relating to the proper classification, valuation, or marking of goods proposed to be imported into the United States.

**§ 1626. Steel products trade enforcement****(a) Export validation requirement**

In order to monitor and enforce export measures required by a foreign government or customs union, pursuant to an international arrangement with the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury may, upon receipt of a request by the President of the United States and by a foreign government or customs union, require the presentation of a valid export license or other documents issued by such foreign government or customs union as a condition for entry into the United States of steel mill products specified in the request. The Secretary may provide by regulation for the terms and conditions under which such merchandise attempted to be entered without an accompanying valid export license or other documents may be denied entry into the United States.

**(b) Period of applicability**

This section applies only to requests received by the Secretary of the Treasury prior to January 1, 1983, and for the duration of the arrangements.

(June 17, 1930, ch. 497, title IV, § 626, as added Pub. L. 96-276, § 153, Oct. 2, 1982, 96 Stat. 1202.)

**§ 1627. Repealed. Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, § 7367(c)(6), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4480**

Section, act June 17, 1930, ch. 497, title IV, § 627, as added Oct. 25, 1984, Pub. L. 98-547, title III, § 302, 98 Stat. 2771, related to unlawful importation or exportation of certain vehicles and equipment.

Another section 627 of act June 17, 1930, as added by Pub. L. 98-573, title II, § 205, Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2974, is classified to section 1627a of this title.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should not be capitalized.

**§ 1627a. Unlawful importation or exportation of certain vehicles; inspections**

**(a) Violations; penalties; seizures and forfeitures**

(1) Whoever knowingly imports, exports, or attempts to import or export—

(A) Any<sup>1</sup> stolen self-propelled vehicle, vessel, aircraft, or part of a self-propelled vehicle, vessel, or aircraft; or

(B) any self-propelled vehicle or part of a self-propelled vehicle from which the identification number has been removed, obliterated, tampered with, or altered;

shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount determined by the Secretary, not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation.

(2) Any violation of this subsection shall make such self-propelled vehicle, vessel, aircraft, or part thereof subject to seizure and forfeiture under this chapter.

**(b) Regulations; violations; penalties**

A person attempting to export a used self-propelled vehicle shall present, pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary, to the appropriate customs officer both the vehicle and a document describing such vehicle which includes the vehicle identification number, before lading if the vehicle is to be transported by vessel or aircraft, or before export if the vehicle is to be transported by rail, highway, or under its own power. Failure to comply with the regulations of the Secretary shall subject such person to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for each violation.

**(c) Definitions**

For purposes of this section—

(1) the term “self-propelled vehicle” includes any automobile, truck, tractor, bus, motorcycle, motor home, self-propelled agricultural machinery, self-propelled construction equipment, self-propelled special use equipment, and any other self-propelled vehicle used or designed for running on land but not on rail;

(2) the term “aircraft” has the meaning given it in section 40102(a)(6) of title 49;

(3) the term “used” refers to any self-propelled vehicle the equitable or legal title to which has been transferred by a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer to an ultimate purchaser; and

(4) the term “ultimate purchaser” means the first person, other than a dealer purchasing in his capacity as a dealer, who in good faith purchases a self-propelled vehicle for purposes other than resale.

**(d) Cooperation of law enforcement and governmental authorities**

Customs officers may cooperate and exchange information concerning motor vehicles, off-highway mobile equipment, vessels, or aircraft, either before exportation or after exportation or importation, with such Federal, State, local, and foreign law enforcement or governmental authorities, and with such organizations engaged in theft prevention activities, as may be designated by the Secretary.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should not be capitalized.

(June 17, 1930, ch. 497, title IV, § 627, as added Pub. L. 98-573, title II, § 205, Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2974.)

**CODIFICATION**

In subsec. (c)(2), “section 40102(a)(6) of title 49” substituted for “section 101(5) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (49 U.S.C. 1301(5))” on authority of Pub. L. 103-272, § 6(b), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1378, the first section of which enacted subtitles II, III, and V to X of Title 49, Transportation.

Another section 627 of act June 17, 1930, as added by Pub. L. 98-547, title III, § 302, Oct. 25, 1984, 98 Stat. 2771, was classified to section 1627 of this title and subsequently repealed.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective on 15th day after Oct. 30, 1984, see section 214(a), (b) of Pub. L. 98-573, set out as an Effective Date of 1984 Amendment note under section 1304 of this title.

**§ 1628. Exchange of information**

**(a) In general**

The Secretary may by regulation authorize customs officers to exchange information or documents with foreign customs and law enforcement agencies if the Secretary reasonably believes the exchange of information is necessary to—

(1) insure compliance with any law or regulation enforced or administered by the Customs Service;

(2) administer or enforce multilateral or bilateral agreements to which the United States is a party;

(3) assist in investigative, judicial and quasi-judicial proceedings in the United States; and

(4) an action comparable to any of those described in paragraphs (1) through (4)<sup>1</sup> undertaken by a foreign customs or law enforcement agency, or in relation to a proceeding in a foreign country.

**(b) Nondisclosure and uses of information provided**

(1) Information may be provided to foreign customs and law enforcement agencies under subsection (a) of this section only if the Secretary obtains assurances from such agencies that such information will be held in confidence and used only for the law enforcement purposes for which such information is provided to such agencies by the Secretary.

(2) No information may be provided under subsection (a) of this section to any foreign customs or law enforcement agency that has violated any assurances described in paragraph (1).

**(c) Government agency of NAFTA country**

The Secretary may authorize the Customs Service to exchange information with any government agency of a NAFTA country, as defined in section 3301(4) of this title, if the Secretary—

(1) reasonably believes the exchange of information is necessary to implement chapter 3, 4, or 5 of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and

(2) obtains assurances from such country that the information will be held in confidence and used only for governmental purposes.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “(3)”.