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## DECISION



*Harris CP*  
THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548

FILE: B-186711

DATE: January 31, 1978

MATTER OF: Fred T. Larsen - Reimbursement For Expenses  
Incurred While Transporting a Mobile Home

- DIGEST:
1. Reimbursement for expenses of renting "U-Haul" trailer not allowed since cost of transporting mobile home is in lieu of all other costs of transporting household goods and personal effects.
  2. Employee who had mobile home transported incident to a permanent change of station is entitled to reimbursement of miscellaneous expenses necessary to relocation of said mobile home including cost of preparing the mobile home for shipment and for reassembling at new duty station.
  3. Employee may not be reimbursed cost of purchasing new tires to satisfy purported requirement of Washington State law since the FTR does not contemplate underwriting the cost of new equipment for the employee's home. This would also be applicable to the purchase and installation of new piping for the sewer, water, and fuel line due to the location of the mobile home at the new station.
  4. Employee is not entitled to reimbursement of flat tire on mobile home incident to a transfer of duty station since this is considered as a repair to a mobile home which reimbursement is specifically precluded by FTR para. 2-7.3a(3).

This matter arises from a request for an advance decision by an authorized certifying officer of the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior as to whether certain expenses in connection with an employee's transfer may be reimbursed.

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Mr. Fred T. Larsen, an employee of the Bureau of Reclamation, was transferred from Collbran, Colorado, to Moses Lake, Washington, on August 25, 1974. Mr. Larsen moved his mobile home incident to his transfer and was reimbursed in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations (FTR) for the transportation of his mobile home with the exception of the following miscellaneous expenses for which receipts have been furnished:

Rental of U-Haul trailer for items that could not be hauled in mobile home	\$ 81.48
Cost of setting up mobile home (including utility connections, lumber, and cement blocks)	208.83
Repair of flat tire	2.50
Cost of purchase and installation of 10-ply tires	100.00
Total	<u>\$392.81</u>

Mr. Larsen was authorized \$200 miscellaneous expenses under paragraph 2-3.3a(2) of the FTR (FPMR 101-7, May 1973) which included the cost of the connection of telephone (\$25) and State auto tax (\$34.30).

The authority for the reimbursement to Federal employees of the miscellaneous expenses necessarily incurred incident to a transfer of station is contained in the FTR, chapter 2, part 3. While employees may be reimbursed the costs involved in preparing their mobile home for shipment and for reassembling them at the new duty station as miscellaneous expenses under the conditions and limitations prescribed in FTR para. 2-3.3b, the controlling regulations do not contemplate underwriting the cost of new equipment for the employee's home. Therefore, reimbursement of the expenses incurred for the cost of and installation of tires (\$100), must be denied as newly acquired items.

Reimbursement of the cost of moving a mobile home incident to an employee's transfer is authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5724(b) (1970). Eligibility is set out in paragraph 2-7.1a of the FTR, which provides in pertinent part, that:

"An employee who is entitled to transportation of his household goods under these regulations

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shall, in lieu of such transportation, be entitled to an allowance, as provided in this part, for the transportation of a mobile home for use as a residence. \* \* \*

It is clear that the payment of the cost of transporting a mobile home is in lieu of paying for the shipment of household goods. Both allowances cannot be paid for the same transfer. Therefore, Mr. Larsen may not be reimbursed the cost incurred in renting the "U-Haul" to ship household goods separate from his trailer. B-184908, May 26, 1976.

The cost of setting up a mobile home including labor and supplies was \$208.03. The record shows that \$126.94 (\$70.94 plus \$56) and \$37.83 was for labor and materials in setting up the trailer. They are necessary expenses incident to the relocation of a mobile home and may be considered miscellaneous expenses. James C. Frye, B-186499, July 27, 1977. The balance of \$44.06 was spent for additional piping for the sewer, water, and fuel lines because the trailer was bigger than what the space was designed for. This would be underwriting the cost of new equipment for an employee's home which the controlling regulations do not contemplate. David B. Goldstein, B-186256, November 17, 1976.

Finally with respect to the repair of a flat tire (\$2.50) while en route to the claimant's new duty station, would be considered as a repair to a mobile home which is specifically precluded by FTR para. 2-7.3a(3).

Mr. Larsen has itemized his miscellaneous expenses and would therefore be entitled to reimbursement of miscellaneous expenses not to exceed his basic pay for 2 weeks. See para. 2-3.3b of the FTR. Since Mr. Larsen has been paid \$200 he would be entitled to an additional amount of \$24.07.

Action on the voucher should be taken in accordance with the foregoing.

*R. F. K. H.*  
Deputy Comptroller General  
of the United States