



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

B-210454

September 24, 1985

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED] :

This replies to your letter of September 4, 1985, in which you inquired about entitlements to the cost of reconnecting a catalytic converter to your car after returning from an assignment at the Naval Station in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. You indicated that at the time of your assignment in 1983 you participated in the Privately Owned Vehicle Import Control Program by having the catalytic converter removed from your car. This was done because unleaded gasoline was not available in Guantanamo Bay.

After completing your tour of duty in Cuba you returned to the United States and retired on June 3, 1985. You submitted your claim for travel expenses including the cost of reconnecting your catalytic converter to the Personnel Support Detachment, Naval Training Center, Orlando, Florida. That portion of your claim for reconnecting the catalytic converter was disallowed by the Navy because you had retired rather than transferred to another duty station. The denial was based on the Comptroller General's decision 62 Comp. Gen. 282 (1983) (B-210454).

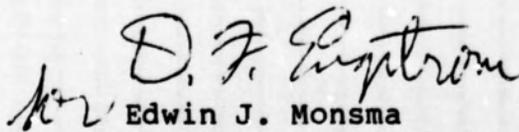
You indicate that you have read this decision and cannot find anything that states retirees returning from overseas are not entitled to reimbursement of the cost of reconnecting catalytic converters, and you have asked if you are entitled to reimbursement.

You are correct in stating that the decision, 62 Comp. Gen. 282 (B-210454), does not specifically mention individuals who retire after returning from an overseas tour of duty. That decision holds that civilian employees (but not military personnel) who participate in the Privately Owned Vehicle Import Control Program may be reimbursed for the cost of reinstallation of catalytic converters upon reentering the United States as a miscellaneous expense incident to a transfer. Miscellaneous expenses are authorized by 5 U.S.C. § 5724a for civilian federal employees who transfer to a new duty station. The authority to pay miscellaneous

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expenses is not applicable to employees who return to the United States for separation. Therefore, it appears that the Navy correctly disallowed your claim for the cost of reconnecting your catalytic converter under these circumstances.

Sincerely yours,

  
Edwin J. Monsma  
Assistant General Counsel