

DECISION



THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548

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FEB 13 1975

FILE: B-182011

DATE:

MATTER OF: Donald R. Lewis - Reimbursement of
Temporary Storage, Handling, and Drayage
Expenses Incident to a Permanent Change
of Duty Station

DIGEST:

Small Business Administration employee may be reimbursed temporary storage, handling, and drayage expenses incurred during a permanent change of duty station at both the old and new duty stations when the agency uses the actual expense method to move the employee and the storage and related expenses at one of the stations are caused by the agency's improper preparation of the Government bill of lading.

The Authorized Certifying Officer of the Small Business Administration (SBA), Washington, D.C., has requested an advance decision whether \$357.28 covering temporary storage, handling, and drayage expenses incurred at Mr. Donald R. Lewis's new duty station incident to a permanent change of duty station may be paid.

Mr. Lewis was transferred from Rock Island, Illinois to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB), near Dayton, Ohio. The travel orders authorized storage of Mr. Lewis's household goods, and by the time the SBA had issued the Government Bill of Lading (GBL) dated September 7, 1972, used to move Mr. Lewis's household effects it was known that Mr. Lewis's new duty station was to be WPAFB because the GBL destination was Dayton, Ohio, and the GBL instructions were that the mover was to contact Mr. Lewis at his place of duty on the WPAFB. Mr. Lewis stored his household goods at his old duty station from September 12, 1972, through September 26, 1972, at which time he directed the mover to take the goods out of storage and deliver them to his residence at his new duty station. The mover took the goods out of storage September 27, 1972, hauled them to the WPAFB on September 28, 1972, and attempted to get delivery instructions from the base Transportation Officer (T.O.). Although Mr. Lewis was on duty at

WPAFB at the time the goods arrived and his wife was waiting at home for arrival of the goods, Mr. Lewis could not be located by the base T.O., so the T.O. ordered the goods into storage. The SBA has refused to pay the storage and related handling and drayage expenses at Mr. Lewis's new duty station, and the issue is whether the employee may be reimbursed for storage and related expenses at both the old and new duty stations incident to a permanent change of duty station.

As a general matter of policy, the Government should not have to reimburse handling and drayage expenses at both the old and new duty stations because normal arrangements require only one storage period and related expenses - either at the origin with direct delivery to employee's residence at the new duty station or at the destination with direct delivery from the employee's residence at the old duty station to storage. In this case Mr. Lewis stored his goods at his old duty station and attempted to arrange direct delivery from storage to his residence at the new duty station. He states that he gave his new duty station residence address to the mover and the SBA, and the record confirms this, although is silent about exactly when he did so. Apparently it was some time after the GBL was issued and before the shipment was delivered at WPAFB.

Under section 6.3(b)(2) of the Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-56, Revised August 17, 1971, the SBA had a duty to prepare the GBL properly, and proper preparation includes corrections necessitated by changing events. Therefore, under the circumstances in this case since (1) the GBL was not corrected by the SBA to indicate where Mr. Lewis's shipment was to be delivered (2) the record indicates that WPAFB had address of the employee in Dayton but failed to advise the mover where to deliver the household goods and (3) the household goods were placed in storage at Dayton through no fault of the employee, Mr. Lewis's claim for storage and related expenses may be certified for payment.

R.F.KELLER

Acting

Comptroller General
of the United States