

GAO

United States General Accounting Office
Washington, DC 20548

17724 *Eastwood*

Office of
General Counsel

In Reply
Refer to: B-201612

APR 9 1981

Norman R. Swarthout
P.O. Box 318
High Springs, Florida 32643

Dear Mr. Swarthout:

Do not make available to public reading

This is in response to your letter of December 16, 1980, requesting our Office's assistance in resolving the problem you have encountered in obtaining reimbursement for your relocation expenses incident to a permanent change of duty station and resolving the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) more general problem of arranging employee transfers.

Your problem is in part a result of the FAA's failure to tell you about a requirement for obtaining weight certificates in connection with the movement of your household goods under the commuted rate system. You didn't obtain the certificates on the initial move but state that upon obtaining advice from the FAA that reimbursement for the move could be based on weight certificates obtained thereafter, you " * * * made arrangements to reweigh the goods, certify that nothing was added since the move and submit the weight certificates." However, your voucher for payment was returned unpaid upon the basis that the weight certificates were obtained after the fact.

The facts regarding your move are not fully set forth in your letter. However, we are enclosing copies of our decisions B-169117, March 16, 1970, and B-172979, July 9, 1971, which describe situations which may be similar to yours. In both cases the employee obtained weight certificates after the fact of his original move and supplemented them with a statement that the goods then weighed were the same as those that were originally moved. We are also enclosing a copy of B-180897, April 21, 1975. In that case the employee failed to obtain weight certificates in connection with his initial transfer. We held that he could not be reimbursed for movement of his household goods on the



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basis of a weight certificate obtained in connection with a transfer 2 years later.

If you feel the facts in your case are similar to those involved in B-169117 and B-172979 you may wish to resubmit your claim together with copies of these decisions. In the event your claim is again disallowed, you may appeal directly to the Claims Group of the General Accounting Office or you may request that the FAA transmit your appeal to our Claims Group together with an administrative report. We are enclosing a copy of Parts 31 and 32 of title 4 of the Code of Federal Regulations detailing the procedures for filing a claim with this Office.

Regarding your concern that there is a general problem within the FAA of properly arranging transfers, the appropriate office to handle this matter is the Resources Management Division of the Office of Inspector General, Department of Transportation.

We trust that the above information will serve the purpose of your request for assistance.

Sincerely yours,

~~Edwin J. Monsma~~

Edwin J. Monsma
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures