

2 FAM 250

CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES ACCORDED FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES

(TL:GEN-107; 04-30-1968)

2 FAM 251 ENTRY OF BAGGAGE ON ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES

2 FAM 251.1 Free Entry

(TL:GEN-107; 04-30-1968)

Upon application to the Department of State and appropriate instructions from the Treasury Department in each instance, the privileges of admission free of duty is extended to the baggage and effects of foreign diplomatic and consular officers, employees, high commissioners, trade representatives, other high officials of foreign governments, and such distinguished foreign visitors as may be designated by the Department of State, including their families, suites, and servants. Such privileges are, however, based on and subject to strict reciprocity on the part of foreign governments, and may be modified or changed if foreign governments do not accord like privileges to American representatives abroad.

2 FAM 251.2 Entry Expedited

(TL:GEN-107; 04-30-1968)

Customs officials of the United States are enjoined against detaining or inconveniencing foreign diplomatic officers accredited to the United States (members of embassies and legations) or to certain public international organizations (the United Nations, the Organization of American States, and the Standing Group of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization).

It should be pointed out in this regard that the mere possession of a diplomatic passport (which is issued primarily for immigration purposes) is not sufficient in and of itself to identify a foreign official as a diplomatic officer. Customs officers have been instructed to look further at the credentials of alien officials before according full diplomatic treatment in view of the fact that it is common knowledge certain countries issue diplomatic passports to nationals of their countries who are not diplomatic officers.

2 FAM 251.3 Requesting Free Entry

(TL:GEN-107; 04-30-1968)

A request for the extension of customs courtesies and free entry privileges to foreign representatives should be submitted to the Department of State, addressed to the Chief of Protocol, through the appropriate foreign mission in Washington, or, for public international organizations, through the liaison officer of the international organization, who will forward the request to the Office of the Chief of Protocol with a recommendation. The request should specify the port of arrival, identify the vessel or aircraft on which the representative is traveling, and state the schedule date of arrival. It should be submitted as far in advance as possible.

In exceptional cases, when a request has not been made to the Department and customs officials have not received special authorization for free entry prior to the arrival of representatives of foreign governments, such privilege may be extended to their baggage and effects upon presentation of their credentials or other proof of identity.

If there are reasons why special treatment should be accorded in individual cases, or if the traveling individual is of sufficient importance and it is feared that the foreign mission in Washington may not receive a request for extension of customs courtesies sufficiently far in advance, posts in the country concerned should notify the Department by telegram of the intended arrival, including the information specified in this section.

2 FAM 252 ARTICLES FOR OFFICIAL USE

(TL:GEN-107; 04-30-1968)

Costumes, regalia, and other articles (including office supplies and equipment) for the official use of members and attaches of foreign embassies and legations, consular officers, and other representatives of foreign governments, are accorded free entry under the usages of international courtesy, provided that the country which any such person represents accords like privileges to corresponding officials of the United States.

2 FAM 253 OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

(TL:GEN-107; 04-30-1968)

Packages bearing the official seal of a foreign government with which the United States has diplomatic relations, accompanied by certificates under such seal to the effect that they contain only official communications and documents, are admitted free of duty without customs examinations.

2 FAM 254 ARTICLES FOR EXHIBITION PURPOSES

(TL:GEN-107; 04-30-1968)

Importation of articles of foreign countries, if they are to form part of an exhibit in a diplomatic mission or consulate, may also be admitted free of duty upon proper request by the foreign mission at Washington to the Chief of Protocol, Department of State, provided that they are not intended for sale or commercial distribution.

2 FAM 255 ARTICLES FOR PERSONAL USE

2 FAM 255.1 General

(TL:GEN-107; 04-30-1968)

The privilege of importing free of duty articles for their personal or family use during their official residence in the United States is accorded to all foreign diplomatic officers of the embassies and legations in Washington, and the three public international organizations mentioned in section 2 FAM 251.2 . The privileges may also be accorded to other foreign representatives and to employees of foreign governments under special agreements between the United States and the countries which they represent. Free entry privileges in the United States are accorded unconditionally in that any articles (including automobiles) which have been imported may be later sold at any time without the payment of customs duties, nor is there any quota system in effect in the United States. The procedure for obtaining release from customs authorities is by form request from the mission concerned to the Chief of Protocol of the Department of State in each instance. The forms are printed at the expense of the Department and furnished to the mission.

2 FAM 255.2 Customs Examination

(TL:GEN-107; 04-30-1968)

Articles which are sent through the mails addressed to the ambassadors, ministers, or charges d'affaires representing foreign governments in the United States, and which are intended for their personal use, are delivered to the addressee without submission to customs officers for inspection. Sealed and unsealed articles addressed to foreign representatives other than chiefs of mission, are subjected to the usual customs inspection as are articles addressed to chiefs of mission which arrive in any manner other than mail.

2 FAM 256 THROUGH 259 UNASSIGNED