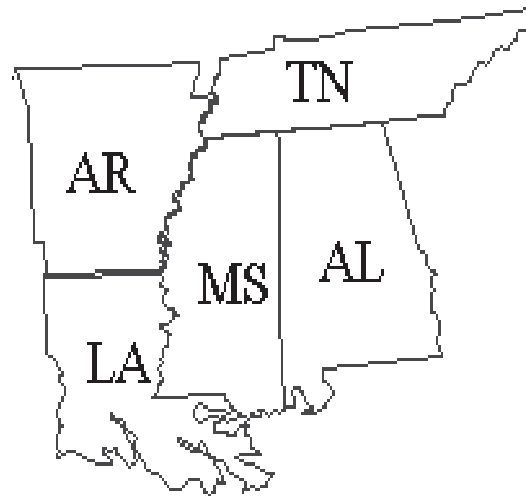


Southern Currents



Notice to the Area Port of New Orleans Trade Community

Date August 30, 2007

No.: 07-155

SUBJECT: Reimbursable Billing

In accordance with current legal authorities, certain Immigration and Agriculture-related services performed on overtime by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers or Agriculture Specialists are reimbursable. While most agriculture related inspections conducted on maritime vessels or cargo directly associated with the arrival of the vessel are covered under the Agriculture user fee, typically, when a CBP Officer or Agriculture Specialist performs an inspectional service outside of port operating hours or while that employee is on overtime, the party-in-interest that benefits from such services may incur a reimbursable charge. CBP bills the costs for the reimbursable inspection services to the parties-in-interest through a reimbursable billing system.

Agriculture-related reimbursable overtime is work performed outside normal duty hours when requested by industry while the employee is in an overtime status. Reimbursable agriculture-related services may include, but are not limited to the following examples:

- Requested exterior inspection of containers performed by an employee in an overtime status.
- Requested inspections of cargo performed by an employee in an overtime status.

Immigration-related reimbursable overtime is work performed between 5:00 PM and 8:00 AM on any day of the week, or for any work performed on a Sunday or a holiday regardless of the time performed. However, in order to be reimbursable, the service must be requested by industry and performed by an employee in an overtime status. Immigration-related reimbursable services remain as they did under Title 8, Aliens and Nationality. Reimbursable Immigration-related services may include, but are not limited to the following examples:

- Vessel inspections outside of the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM performed by an employee in an overtime status.
- Aircraft inspections outside of the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM performed by an employee in an overtime status.
- Charter boat inspections outside of the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM performed by an employee in an overtime status.

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- Cargo vessel inspections outside of the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM performed by an employee in an overtime status.

After the creation of Customs and Border Protection back in March of 2003, there was some confusion on whether or not reimbursable billing would continue for Immigration and Agriculture related services. CBP Headquarters has confirmed that reimbursement for activities identified in the examples above is required. Based on this mandate, all CBP ports of entry in the Area Port of New Orleans (Morgan City, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Gramercy, Shreveport, and New Orleans) will bill accordingly when reimbursable overtime services are performed.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Eileen Shaw, Assistant Port Director, Tactical Operations at (504) 670-2287.

Vernon Foret
Area Port Director
Area Port of New Orleans, LA
U.S. Customs and Border Protection