

# CLAIMS FOR FULL REPLACEMENT VALUE (FRV) COVERAGE

## *Counseling Checklist and Member/Employee Information*

FRV applies to shipments with a pick-up date on or after 1 October 2007 for International Household Goods (HHG) and Unaccompanied Baggage (UB) shipments, a pick-up date on or after 1 November 2007 for Domestic HHG, and a pick-up date on or after 1 March 2008 for Non-Temporary Storage (NTS), Direct Procurement Method (DPM) (local moves, intra-theater). Some FRV shipments will move under the new Defense Personal Property (DP3) Program as early as September 2008, and almost all shipments will be under the DP3 Program by the end of 2009. Personnel whose shipments move under the DP3 Program are counselled and their shipments are booked through the Defence Personal Property System (DPS)

### **1. FRV for Lost or Destroyed Items.**

--- To have your claim paid on the basis of FRV you MUST file your claim directly with the transportation service provider (TSP) within 9 months of delivery.

--- If you file your claim with the (TSP) within 9 months of delivery, the TSP is REQUIRED to replace any item that is lost or destroyed with a new item, or pay the cost of a new item of the same kind and quality, without deducting for depreciation.

--- The TSP is not required to replace items which can be repaired for less than the Full Replacement Value of the item.

--- The TSP is only required to arrange for the repair of those items, or to pay for the cost of the repairs.

--- Repair will be to the extent necessary to restore the item to its condition when it was received by the TSP.

--- An item is considered destroyed if it cannot be repaired, or if the cost of repair would exceed the cost of a new item.

### **2. Timely Notice.**

--- Loss or damage to an item MUST be reported to the TSP within 75 days of the date of delivery.

--- The TSP MUST list all missing or damaged items that are discovered on the day of delivery on the Notice of Loss and Damage AT Delivery Form, which you will also sign. Three (3) copies of this form will be left with you by the TSP

--- Items discovered missing or damaged AFTER delivery MUST be listed on the Notice of Loss and Damage AFTER Delivery Form. Within 75 days of delivery, you must log onto the claims module in the DPS, select "Loss/Damage Reports" from the main menu, and enter all items that are on both forms into the DPS. If you do not have access to DPS, you may send the AFTER Delivery Form by fax, mail, or email to the TSP within 75 days after delivery. If mailed, send it to the address in the lower right hand section of the AT Delivery Form by certified mail. If faxed or emailed, keep a copy of the delivery acknowledgement message.

### **3. Claim Must Be Filed Within 9 Months to Receive FRV.**

--- Submission of a "Loss/Damage Report" in DPS or sending the Notice of Loss and Damage AFTER Delivery Form to the TSP does not constitute the filing of a claim. You MUST log-in to the claims module of the DPS and submit a Claim for Loss and Damage for a specific amount to the TSP within 9 months after the date of delivery. The claim MUST list each item that was lost or damaged and give a general description of the damage. If you cannot access the claims module in DPS, you may contact your military claims office for assistance.

--- Guidance on filing a claim in DPS can be found in the on-line Learning Management System in DPS. Basic instructions are also on the screens in the claims module. You may contact your military claims office for assistance if you need assistance with the DPS claims process.

--- You do not need to obtain estimates of repair in order to file your claim. The TSP is responsible for obtaining estimates, if you file your claim directly with the carrier within 9 months of delivery. You may not be reimbursed for any estimate fees on estimates you obtain without the TSP's express request for you to do so.

--- Do not delay filing your claim past the nine month deadline in order to get additional information you think the TSP may need. If your claim has been timely filed, additional information may be presented at a later time.

### **4. Limits of Liability.**

--- The TSP's maximum liability on a shipment is \$5,000 or \$4 per pound times the weight of the shipment, whichever is greater, but not more than \$50,000.

--- If the amount of your loss exceeds the TSP's maximum liability, you may file a claim with a military claims office for any loss in excess of the carrier's payment. However, the military claims office can only pay the depreciated replacement value or repair cost, whichever is less, for those items for which the carrier did not pay.

--- In the alternative, you may try to purchase FRV coverage from a private insurance company to cover potential losses in excess of \$50,000.

--- A TSP is liable for only \$1.25 per pound times the weight of your shipment, if you do not file your claim with the TSP within 9 months of delivery.

### **5. Settlement of Loss and Damage Claims.**

--- The TSP shall pay, deny, or make an offer within 60 days of receipt of a complete, substantiated claim.

--- The TSP will complete payment to the owner within 30 days of receipt of notice that the owner has accepted a full or partial settlement.

--- You may still file your claim directly with a military claims office, but if you do, you give up your right to FRV. The military claims offices do not have the authority to settle claims on the basis of FRV.

--- You may transfer all or part of your claim to a military claims office if you are dissatisfied with the TSP's handling of your claim. However, you may not transfer your claim until the TSP has made a final offer, or more than 30 days have elapsed since you filed your claim.

#### **6. Partial Settlements.**

--- If you cannot reach a mutually acceptable settlement directly with the TSP on part of your claim, you can accept payment from the TSP on those items on which you and the TSP have reached agreement. The TSP will pay you on the items on which you have reached an agreement. You may transfer any unsettled portions of the claim to a military claims office.

--- If you transfer your claim to military claims office after filing directly with a TSP within nine months, the military claims office will pay your claim on the basis of depreciated replacement value or repair cost, whichever is less. The military claims office will then try to recover the FRV from the TSP. If the military claims office recovers more from the TSP than it paid you, the military claims office will send you the difference between what it paid you and what it recovered from the TSP.

#### **7. Quick Claims.**

--- The TSP may establish a quick claim settlement procedure to quickly resolve and pay claims for minor loss or damage discovered at the time of delivery.

--- Quick claims cover payment for less than \$500 with payment made within 5 days of delivery.

--- The process of settling and paying such claims will be left to the discretion of each TSP. The quick claim must specifically list the items and the damage for which payment is being made.

--- If you receive a quick claim settlement and then file an additional claim, the additional claim may not include items that were settled through the quick claim process. When you go to the claims module in DPS and begin the process of filing your claim on-line, you will be asked if you have received payment for a Quick Claim and, if so, to identify the items for which you were paid.

#### **8. Inspection of Items by the TSP.**

--- The TSP may inspect the damaged items at any time prior to settlement of the claim, but may not deny a claim solely on the basis that it was unable to inspect any item.

--- If you repaired an item before the TSP inspection, you MUST provide the repair bill or some other evidence of the damage and repair cost to the TSP. If you disposed of a damaged item, you MUST give the TSP evidence that the item was damaged beyond economical repair.

--- Before a claim is filed, you may call the TSP and request an inspection, or permission to dispose of items. The TSP will, within two (2) business days of being contacted, notify you that either the items will be inspected or that you may dispose of the items.

--- When the TSP gives notice to inspect the items, the TSP will do so within 45 calendar days of being contacted by the owner unless the owner grants a further extension.

#### **9. Salvage.**

--- For shipments delivered within the United States or its territories, the TSP is entitled to take possession of and sell for salvage any damaged item on which it has paid either the depreciated or undepreciated replacement cost, or replaced the damaged item with a new item.

--- If a lost item is located after your claim has been paid, you may decide either to request or decline delivery of the item(s). If you elect to receive a found item, you MUST refund any amount paid on that item.

--- If the TSP locates an item within 60 days of receipt of notice of the loss, and a claim on that item has not yet been paid, you are obligated to accept delivery of the item in lieu of a claim, even if you have replaced the item.

--- If the TSP locates a lost item more than 60 days after receipt of notice of the loss, but the item has not been replaced, and a claim on the item has not been paid, you are obligated to accept delivery of the item in lieu of a claim.

--- If a lost item is later delivered with damage, the time limits for qualifying for FRV protection and for filing claims on that item will not commence until the delivery of that item.

#### **10. Essential Items.**

--- The TSP is responsible for promptly dealing with owners who have had essential items lost, destroyed or made unusable due to damage. You MUST notify the TSP, military claims office, or personal property shipping office of such a loss within 7 days of the date the goods were delivered.

--- Essential items include but are not limited to: (1) Refrigerators or other appliances necessary for the safe storage and preparation of food, (2) Necessary medical equipment and (3) Mattresses.

--- Upon notification of the loss of an essential item, within two (2) business days, the TSP shall either pay for such items, provide temporary or permanent replacements for them, or make other arrangements as agreed to by you.

--- Any payments made by the TSP shall be considered an advance on any claim and should not exceed the TSP's expected total liability. You are required to file a claim for the loss. Any advance payment will be deducted from your eventual award.

#### **11. Catastrophic Loss Payments.**

--- The TSP is responsible for identifying and making partial, advance payments to you for a catastrophic loss to relieve hardships associated with the loss of all or a majority of household goods or unaccompanied baggage. Catastrophic loss occurs when over 60% of the inventory line items in a given shipment are lost, damaged or destroyed.

--- The payments are an advance and will not exceed the expected total liability. You are required to file a claim. Any advance payment made will be deducted from your eventual award. Payments are subject to the same maximum liability and rules as all payments.

--- The TSP will make payment or come to an agreement on payment within 48 hours of contacting you.

**12. High Value Items and High Risk Items.**

--- High value items are limited to currency, coins, jewelry, silverware and silver service sets, crystal, figurines, furs, objects of art, computer software programs, manuscripts, comic books, baseball cards, stamps, and other collectable items or rare documents that have a value in excess of \$100 per pound. Individual CDs or DVDs with a value in excess of \$50 will be considered a high value item.

--- If you fail to inform the TSP that such items are included in the shipment after the TSP has asked you in writing to list any such items in the above categories that will be included in the shipment, the TSP liability for high value items that you do not list shall be limited to \$100 per pound of the article.

--- Items such as CDs, video tapes and DVDs, that do not qualify as high value items for purposes of this provision limiting liability may be included on a high risk inventory.

--- Your responsibilities at delivery: You and the TSP MUST open all containers in which the high risk/high value items were packed; remove the items from the containers and physically inspect each item before you sign the high risk/high value inventory form.