duties are subject to retaliatory suspension of the exemption from payment of special tonnage tax and light money (46 U.S.C. App. 141).

Brazil had previously been included in the list of nations in § 4.22 whose vessels are exempt from the payment of special tonnage taxes and light money (see T.D. 95–14, 60 FR 6966, dated February 6, 1995). However, Brazil was recently removed from the list because the Department of State had informed Customs that Brazil had enacted a law that discriminated against U.S. vessels and the vessels of other countries in its preferential tax treatment of cargoes carried by certain specially-registered Brazilian vessels (see T.D. 98–79, 63 FR 52967, dated October 2, 1998). Specifically, under that law, the dutiable value of imported merchandise carried by the specially-registered Brazilian vessels did not include freight charges, while identical imports carried by U.S. vessels or the vessels of other countries were subject to duty on freight charges. This violated the reciprocal nature of the exemption privilege granted, and, as such, Brazil no longer qualified for the exemption.

However, the Department of State has now informed Customs that the Brazilian government has since effectively eliminated the discriminatory tax treatment in question and that both the Department of State and the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration support the restoration of Brazil to the list of nations whose vessels are exempt from the payment of special tonnage taxes and light money.

As a result, the Department of State, in accordance with 46 U.S.C. App. 141 and Executive Order 10289 of September 17, 1951 (16 FR 9499, 3 CFR 1949–1953 Comp. p. 787, as amended, see 3 U.S.C.A. 301 note), has recommended to the Secretary of the Treasury, through Customs, that Brazil be restored to the list of nations in § 4.22.

Finding

The Customs Service has determined that the vessels of Brazil are exempt from the payment of special tonnage taxes and light money, effective as of March 31, 1999, and that § 4.22 of the Customs Regulations should be amended accordingly. The authority to amend this section of the Customs Regulations has been delegated to the Chief, Regulations Branch.

The Regulatory Flexibility Act, Executive Order 12866 and Inapplicability of Public Notice and Comment and Delayed Effective Date Requirements

Because this amendment concerns a foreign affairs function of the United States, merely implements a statutory mandate, and involves a matter in which the general public has no significant interest, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, notice and public procedure in this case are considered unnecessary; further, for the same reason, good cause exists for dispensing with a delayed effective date under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). Since this document is not subject to the notice and public procedure requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553, it is not subject to the provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). Nor does the amendment meet the criteria for a ''significant regulatory action'' under E.O. 12866.

List of Subjects in 19 CFR Part 4

Cargo vessels, Customs duties and inspection, Entry, Maritime carriers, Vessels.

Amendment to the Regulations

Part 4, Customs Regulations (19 CFR part 4), is amended as set forth below.

PART 4—VESSELS IN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC TRADES

1. The general and relevant specific authority citations for part 4 continue to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 19 U.S.C. 66, 1431, 1433, 1434, 1624; 46 U.S.C. App. 3, 91.

* * * * *

Section 4.22 also issued under 46 U.S.C. App. 121, 128, 141;

* * * * *

§ 4.22 [Amended]

2. Section 4.22 is amended by adding ''Brazil'', in appropriate alphabetical order, to the list of nations entitled to exemption from special tonnage taxes and light money.

Dated: March 26, 1999.

Harold M. Singer,

Chief, Regulations Branch.

[FR Doc. 99–7916 Filed 3–30–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

19 CFR Part 144

[T.D. 98–74]

RIN 1515–AB99

Lay Order Period; General Order; Penalties; Correction

AGENCY: U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document makes a correction to the document published in the **Federal Register** that adopted as a final rule, with some changes, proposed amendments to the Customs Regulations regarding, among other things, the obligation of the owner, master, pilot, operator, or agent of an arriving carrier to provide notice to Customs and to a bonded warehouse of the presence of merchandise or baggage that has remained at the place of arrival or unlading beyond the time period provided by regulation without entry having been completed. The correction involves a conforming change to the Customs Regulations pertaining to rewarehouse entries.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This correction is effective March 31, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For legal matters: Jeremy Baskin, Penalties Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings (202) 927–2344.

For operational matters: Steven T. Soggin, Office of Field Operations, (202) 927–0765.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 25 1998, Customs published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 51283) T.D. 98–74 which adopted as a final rule, with some changes, proposed amendments to the Customs Regulations regarding the obligation of the owner, master, pilot, operator, or agent of an arriving carrier to provide notice to Customs and to a bonded warehouse of the presence of merchandise or baggage that has remained at the place of arrival or unlading beyond the time period provided by the regulatory amendments (that is, the fifteenth calendar day after landing) without entry having been completed. The final regulatory texts specifically require one of the arriving carrier's obligated parties, or any party who takes custody from the arriving carrier under a Customs-authorized permit to transfer or in-bond entry, to provide notice of the unentered

merchandise or baggage to Customs and to a bonded warehouse no later than 20 calendar days after landing or after receipt under the permit to transfer or after arrival at the port of destination. The notice to the bonded warehouse proprietor initiates his obligation to arrange for transportation and storage of the unentered merchandise or baggage at the risk and expense of the consignee. The final regulatory texts also provide for penalties or liquidated damages against the owner or master of any conveyance, or agent thereof, for failure to provide the required notice to Customs or to a bonded warehouse proprietor. The final regulations further provide for the assessment of liquidated damages against any party who accepts custody of the merchandise or baggage under a Customs-authorized permit to transfer or in-bond entry and who fails to notify Customs and a bonded warehouse of the presence of such unentered merchandise or baggage and also against the warehouse operator who fails to take required possession of the merchandise or baggage.

The final regulatory texts as summarized above resulted from amendments to the underlying statutory authority effected by sections 656 and 658 contained within the Customs Modernization provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 103–182, 107 Stat. 2057) and are primarily reflected in a revised § 4.37 (19 CFR 4.37) and in new §§ 122.50 and 123.10 (19 CFR 122.50 and 123.10), each of which is entitled ''[g]eneral order.'' (T.D. 98–74 also included a number of conforming changes to the Customs Regulations in order to reflect a number of other statutory amendments and repeals effected by the Customs Modernization provisions and in order to reflect the recent recodification and reenactment of title 49, United States Code; the correction contained in this document bears no relationship to those other regulatory amendments.)

Although T.D. 98–74 also included a number of conforming regulatory changes to ensure consistency with the terms of revised § 4.37 and new §§ 122.50 and 123.10 (involving, for example, the removal or replacement of obsolete references to a ''5-day'' or ''lay order'' period or ''extension'' thereof), § 144.41(g) of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR 144.41(g)) was overlooked in this regard. This provision concerns the treatment of merchandise in a rewarehouse context. The present text, by referring to a rewarehouse entry not filed ''before the expiration of 5 days after its arrival or any authorized extension,'' is inconsistent with, and thus could give rise to uncertainty regarding the proper and intended applicability of, §§ 4.37, 122.50 and 123.10 in a rewarehouse context. Therefore, T.D. 98–74 should have included an appropriate revision of § 144.41(g) to clarify the operation of those general order provisions in that specific context. This document corrects this oversight.

Correction of Publication

In the document published in the **Federal Register** as T.D. 98–74 on September 25, 1998 (63 FR 51283), on page 51290, in the third column, the following part 144 amendment is added in appropriate numerical order:

PART 144—WAREHOUSE AND REWAREHOUSE ENTRIES AND WITHDRAWALS

1. The authority citation for part 144 continues to read in part as follows:

Authority: 19 U.S.C. 66, 1484, 1557, 1559, 1623, 1624.

* * * * *

2. In § 144.41, paragraph (g) is revised to read as follows:

§ 144.41 Entry for rewarehouse.

* * * * *

(g) *Failure to enter.* If the rewarehouse entry is not filed within 15 calendar days after its arrival, the merchandise shall be disposed of in accordance with the applicable procedures in § 4.37 or § 122.50 or § 123.10 of this chapter. However, merchandise sent to a general order warehouse shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of as unclaimed until the expiration of the original 5-year period during which the merchandise may remain in warehouse under bond.

* * * * *

Dated: March 26, 1999.

John A. Durant,

Acting Assistant Commissioner, Office of Regulations and Rulings.

[FR Doc. 99–7917 Filed 3–30–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

24 CFR Parts 203 and 204

[Docket No. FR–4288–C–02]

RIN 2502–AH08

Builder Warranty for High-Ratio FHA-Insured Single Family Mortgages for New Homes

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD.

ACTION: Interim rule; technical correction.

SUMMARY: On March 25, 1999, HUD published an interim rule revising the warranty requirements applicable to high-ratio FHA-insured single family mortgages on new homes. This document corrects errors in the preamble to that interim rule.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 27, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vance Morris, Director, Home Mortgage Insurance Division, Room 9266, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th St., Washington, DC 20410, 202–708–2700. (This is not a toll-free number.) For hearing- and speech-impaired persons, this number may be accessed via TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On March 25, 1999, 64 FR 14572, HUD published an interim rule revising the warranty requirements applicable to high-ratio FHA-insured single family mortgages on new homes. Two errors in the preamble for that interim rule need correction. In explaining the meaning of ''new construction'' or ''new home'', we inadvertently omitted a ''not''. In footnote 1, we provided an Internet address that cannot be accessed by non-HUD servers.

Accordingly, FR Doc. 99–7345, Builder Warranty for High-Ratio FHA-Insured Single Family Mortgages for New Homes (FR–4288–I–01), published in the **Federal Register** on March 25, 1999 (64 FR 14572), is corrected as follows:

1. On page 14572, second column, the second complete sentence is revised to read as follows: ''(In this preamble, ''new construction'' or ''new home'' refers to any home that was not completed earlier than 1 year before the date of the application for mortgage insurance).''

2. On page 14572, third column, footnote 1, the Internet address is amended to read ''http://www.hudclips.org/sub-nonhud/html/forms.htm''.

Dated: March 26, 1999.

Camille E. Acevedo,

Assistant General Counsel for Regulations.

[FR Doc. 99–7920 Filed 3–30–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–27–P