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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

B-204043

August 7, 1981

Mr. J. W. Boddie
Deputy for Accounting and Internal Audit
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Department of the Air Force

Dear Mr. Boddie:

We refer to your letter of June 15, 1981, requesting that the General Accounting Office modify prior decisions of this Office which authorized Government agencies discretionary authority to reimburse vendors for prepaid freight charges without demanding supporting documentation if the charges are less than \$25. B-121220, August 2, 1957; 43 Comp. Gen. 557 (1964). You ask that the \$25 limit be increased to \$100 because the costs of transportation and administrative processing have risen significantly since 1954.

While the GAO prescribed the audit and documentation requirements for reimbursement of the shipping charges to the extent described in the cases you cite, the General Accounting Office Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-604, 88 Stat. 1959, approved January 2, 1975, authorized the transfer of the transportation audit function to the General Services Administration (GSA). See, B-191783, July 28, 1978.

Therefore, since 1975, we have taken the position that providing standard forms and procedures pertaining to payment for transportation services is closely related to the audit and that those procedures may be prescribed by the GSA Administrator in consultation with the internal organization of the GAO assigned overview responsibility, 4 C.F.R. § 51.2 (1981). Thus, with regard to your request, GSA would have the authority to grant exceptions to this procedure.

Sincerely yours,

For Harry R. Van Cleve
Acting General Counsel

[Reimbursement of Vendors For Prepaid Freight Charges]
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