

COAST GUARD POLICY ON PRIVATE INSURANCE USE IN HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND POV SHIPMENTS OR STORAGE

1. If you have a private insurance policy that may cover all or part of your loss, ordinarily, you must file with your insurance company before the Government can pay any part of your claim. However, you **DO NOT** have to file with your private insurance company **IF** your claim is for loss/damage to your personal property **while it was being shipped or stored at government expense**. This is a change in policy and is limited to this specific type of claim. It is limited to this type of claim because, after paying you, the Government will file a claim against the moving company or warehouse for the money that was paid to you.

2. Some of the things you may want to consider in deciding whether or not to file with your private insurance company are:
 - a. Some insurance companies will consider the number of claims you have filed in a certain time period when deciding whether to renew a policy or to issue you a new policy. For example, the Navy Times reported that some insurance companies won't renew a homeowner's or renter's policy if a claimant files more than 3 claims in 2 years.

 - b. Your private insurance will most likely pay you the full replacement value (i.e. new-for-old) rather than the fair market value (depreciated replacement cost) that the Government is authorized to pay.

 - c. The Government is limited on both the total amount we can pay (in most cases, \$40,000) and on how much we can pay for certain types of property. For example, the Government will not pay more than \$3,000.00 for any item of furniture, more than \$3,000.00 for CD's or more than \$4,000.00 for any computer together with software and accessories.

 - d. Your private insurance may pay you for items for which the Government cannot pay. For example, we can't pay for items that are purchased or used for a private business. The Government cannot pay for any losses caused by your negligent acts or omissions. For example, you forgot to take the cigarette lighter out of your pants pockets and it caused the shipment to catch fire, the Government could not pay for the loss.

3. If you have any questions about whether or not to file with your insurance company, you need to discuss your concerns with the company. Claims personnel are not authorized to counsel you regarding private insurance coverage.