

* * * HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS * * *

1. There is a very strictly applied limitation on the amount of household effects that foreign service personnel may have moved at public expense (O.I. 5-37). This limitation establishes ceilings for both weight and volume neither of which may be exceeded.
2. In obtaining removal bids from moving companies it should be remembered that if the quotation is on a "per cubic metre (or yard)" basis there is a very real danger that the company might be tempted to make the unit cost low enough to eliminate their competitors and then make a large profit by deliberate wastage of space.
3. If this should result in the volume ceiling being exceeded, the excess will not be accepted for payment by the government. In order to avoid the possibility of deliberate wastage in packing and, at the same time, to prevent the paying of exorbitant removal sums by the government, it is suggested that bids be obtained on a "total job" basis. The effect of this is that the moving company agrees to move all an F.S.O.'s household effects from A to B without exceeding either the weight or volume figure they have calculated.

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