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# ADS Chapter 523

## Foreign Service Assignment Travel

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**Functional Series 500 - Management Services**  
**ADS Chapter 523 - Foreign Service Assignment Travel**

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## **ADS Chapter 523 – Foreign Service Assignment Travel**

### **523.1 OVERVIEW**

This chapter provides the policy and procedures for travel by Foreign Service employees and members of their families in the United States and abroad. It also covers the storage and shipment of their furniture, household and personal effects, and motor vehicles.

### **523.2 PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES**

**a. The Bureau for Management, Office of Administrative Services, Travel and Transportation Division (M/AS/TT), in conjunction with the Agency's Office of Human Resources (M/HR), the Office of Financial Management (M/FM), and the Department of State, is responsible for developing and promulgating travel policies and procedures, and for administering and coordinating the travel and transportation activities for the Agency.**

**b. The traveler** is responsible for performing official travel in accordance with the governing regulations and for the payment of any charges incurred through noncompliance with applicable regulations, regardless of who may have assisted the traveler in making travel arrangements. In addition, the traveler is also responsible for the value of tickets in his or her possession when purchased with Government funds or through the exchange of transportation requests.

The traveler is also responsible for making a conscientious effort to minimize costs of official travel, and will assume any additional expenses incurred for personal convenience.

### **523.3 POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

#### **523.3.1 Foreign Service Travel Policy**

It is the policy of the Government that the Uniform Foreign Affairs Travel Regulations, 6 FAM 100, govern the travel of

- Members of the Foreign Service;
- Foreign Compensation (FC) schedule employees of Participating Agency Service Agreements (**PASA**), including commissioned officers of the Uniformed Services assigned to USAID programs overseas; and
- Members of their families.

These regulations also govern the shipment and storage of their furniture, household and personal effects, and privately owned motor vehicles. These regulations apply to travel and transportation within the United States as well as overseas.

For information on specific policies and procedures governing foreign service assignment travel, see the applicable reference section cited in the following list:

- **See Mandatory Reference, [6 FAM 135](#)** for information on the use of U.S. Flag carriers.
- **See Mandatory Reference, [6 FAM 134](#)** for information on the use of U.S. and foreign flag vessels.
- **See Mandatory Reference, [6 FAM 131](#)** for information about traveling within the employee's regularly scheduled workweek.
- **See Mandatory Reference, [6 FAM 132](#)** for information on direct travel.
- **See Mandatory Reference, [6 FAM 132.2](#)** for information on indirect travel.
- **See Mandatory Reference, [6 FAM 133.2-3](#)** for information on the cost basis for interrupted travel and transportation.
- **See Mandatory References, [6 FAM 147.1-1](#), [6 FAM 147.1-2](#), [6 FAM 147.2-2](#), [6 FAM 147.2-3](#), [6 FAM 147.2-4](#)** for information on the use of premium class travel.
- **See Mandatory Reference, [6 FAM 167](#)** for information on the use of U.S. flag airlines incident to the shipment of household effects.
- **See Mandatory Reference, [6 FAM 163](#)** for information about weight allowances for the shipment and storage of household effects.
- **See Mandatory Reference, [6 FAM 163.3](#)** for information on the shipment of consumables.
- **See Mandatory Reference, [6 FAM 165](#)** for information about the shipment of privately owned motor vehicles.
- **See Mandatory Reference, [6 FAM 126.9](#)** for information on acquiring a new family member.
- **See Mandatory References, [3 FAM 3730](#) and [6 FAM 125.24](#)** for information about visitation travel.

- **See Mandatory Reference, [3 FAM 3740](#)** for information about emergency visitation travel.
- **See Mandatory Reference, [3 FAM 3750](#)** for information about the travel of children of separated parents.
- **See Mandatory References, [DSSR 280](#) and [6 FAM 125.4](#)** for information about educational travel of dependent children.
- **See Mandatory Reference, [DSSR 270](#)** for information about educational allowance for dependent children.
- **See Mandatory Reference, [3 FAM 3720](#)** for information about rest and recuperation travel.
- **See Mandatory References, [3 FAM 3710](#) and [6 FAM 125.14](#)** for information about Medical Travel.
- **See Mandatory References, [3 FAM 3430](#) and [6 FAM 125.8](#)** for information about Home Leave travel.

#### 523.4 MANDATORY REFERENCES

##### 523.4.1 External Mandatory References

- a. [Department of State Standardized Regulations \(DSSR\), Chapter 200, Cost of Living Allowances](#)
- b. [3 FAM 3200, Allowances](#)
- c. [6 FAM 100, Travel, Transportation, and Storage](#)
- d. [Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended](#)
- e. [Foreign Service Act of 1980, as amended](#)
- f. [Section 901\(a\) of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 \(46 U.S.C. 1241\(a\)\)](#)
- g. [Title 5, U.S.C., Chapter 57, Travel, Transportation, and Subsistence](#)

##### 523.4.2 Internal Mandatory References

#### 523.5 ADDITIONAL HELP

#### 523.6 DEFINITIONS (See [ADS Glossary](#))

**accommodations (airplane)**

- 1) First Class – Air travel accommodations at a higher cost than that for standard – economy class accommodations, but lower than premium fare.
- 2) Premium Fare – Air travel accommodations at a cost higher than that for standard first-class accommodations.
- 3) Business Class – Air travel accommodations at a cost lower than first-class accommodations and higher than the standard, economy fare.
- 4) Economy – Standard coach fare, unrestricted, subject to seasonal variances. (Chapter 523)

**Agency**

The United States Information Agency or the Agency for International Development and its participating agencies, as appropriate. (6 FAM-111.3) (Chapters [522](#), 523, [524](#), and [525](#))

**family/authorized dependents**

- (1) Children who are unmarried and under 21 years of age or, regardless of age, are incapable of self-support. The term shall include, in addition to natural offspring, stepchildren and adopted children and those under legal guardianship of the employee or the spouse when such children are expected to be under such legal guardianship at least until they reach 21 years of age and when dependent upon and normally residing with the guardian;
- (2) Parents (including stepparents and legally adoptive parents) of the employee or of the spouse, when such parents are at least 51 percent dependent on the employee for support (these parents are not authorized medical travel; see 3 FAM 686.1);
- (3) Sisters and brothers (including stepsisters or stepbrothers, or adoptive sisters or brothers) of the employee, or of the spouse, when such sisters and brothers are at least 51 percent dependent on the employee for support, unmarried and under 21 years of age, or regardless of age, are incapable of self-support (these sisters and brothers are not authorized medical travel; see 3 FAM 686.1); and (4) Spouse. (6 FAM-111.3) (Chapters [522](#), 523, [524](#), and [525](#))

**American ship**

Vessel registered under the U.S. (Chapter 523)

**Non-Temporary Storage/Continuous Storage**

Allowable expenses for continuous storage of household goods belonging to Agency employees. (Chapters 523, [524](#), [525](#))

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