



January 31, 2024

**Advisory Update – The Advisory in Response to Impact of Shipments Affected by the Red Sea Reroutings.**

## U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)

### Advisory in Response to Reroutings via the Red Sea and the Impacts of Delays Including Additional Pass-Through Costs for International Household Goods Shipments

#### For Civilian Government Agencies Participating in GSA's Centralized Household Goods Traffic Management Program (CHAMP)

Delays and routing changes to shipping vessels carrying international household goods (HHG) shipments have resulted in significant cost fluctuations for ocean freight and related services in and around the Red Sea. This has caused shipments to be rerouted or delayed due to international events to assure the safe passage of cargo and crew members. Consequently, additional costs are being incurred for these shipments. Pricing and capacity to/from this area has been affected as well as delivery times.

To temporarily offset surcharges imposed by ports and ocean vessels due to the rerouting of shipments, added security measures, etc., GSA authorizes ordering agencies to pay added costs imposed by the shipping lines or ports as pass-through charges with prior authorization and documentation for the additional costs. GSA authorizes this temporary advisory for CHAMP international ocean HHG shipments affected by operations in and around the Red Sea that are packed/picked up on or after **October 7, 2023**. This advisory will remain in effect until explicitly canceled or superseded, whichever occurs first.

Added costs for rerouted international household goods CHAMP shipments are authorized for shipments moving to or through the hot zone area identified below and for which U.S. Flag shipping applies, including P2 and P3 service:

- Shipments routed in or around the Red Sea area.

#### **Application:**

The CHAMP TSP must provide supporting documentation from the international ocean vessel / TSP of additional surcharges imposed by the shipping line or port. The TSP must also receive written authorization from the agency prior to invoicing.



The CHAMP international ocean HHG temporary advisory affected by operations in and around the Red Sea is not applicable to:

- Unaccompanied air baggage shipments
- Shipments of storage
- Shipments receiving a determination of non-availability (DNA) for shipping on a foreign flag vessel

**Invoicing:**

Prior to invoicing, TSPs must contact the ordering civilian federal agency to determine if there are agency-specific invoicing instructions for the temporary CHAMP international ocean HHG pass-through charge. For pre and post-payment audit purposes, civilian federal agencies and TSPs should ensure that documentation from the ocean vessel citing the surcharge amount(s) and agency authorization are included in the pre and post-payment audit document package.

TSPs must identify the amount of the surcharge for pass-through reimbursement as a separate line item on the invoice titled as "Red Sea surcharge" and include documentation of agency approval of the increased expense in the invoice and pre and post-audit package. All other invoicing requirements included in the HTOS (Section 8) apply.

Please direct any additional questions to [relocation.programs@gsa.gov](mailto:relocation.programs@gsa.gov)