

Program Notice GIPSA PN 09-14 09/21/2009

SUSPENSION OF THE GUARANTEED HOME BUYOUT RELOCATION TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

1. PURPOSE

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is suspending its policy of providing the authorization of the guaranteed home buyout (GBO) relocation travel allowance. This program notice supplements DR2300-002, USDA Relocation Allowance Regulation (dated May, 31, 2007).

2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This action is effective upon receipt and does not affect those employees who are currently authorized to receive GBO relocation travel allowances.

3. BACKGROUND

According to DR2300-002, USDA Relocation Allowance Regulation, current Federal employees transferring between duty stations in the interest of the government are entitled to the following relocation allowances:

Relocation Allowances-Entitlements <i>(Agencies <u>must pay or reimburse</u>)</i>	
1. Transportation & per diem for employee & immediate family member(s) (§ 302-4). Also known as enroute travel.	4. Transportation & temporary storage of household goods (§ 302-7). Maximum storage of 90 days.
2. Miscellaneous moving expense (§ 302-16). \$650 for individuals, \$1300 for employee with family. Covers fees such as interior drapes, installations, etc. (Excludes new appointees)	5. Transportation of a mobile home or boat used as a primary residence in lieu of the transportation of household goods (§ 302-10).
3. Sell or buy residence transactions or lease termination expenses (§ 302-11). Employee sells home on their own and becomes eligible for reimbursement of up to 10% of sale price of home and up to 5% of purchase price of residence at new official duty station.	6. Relocation income tax allowance (RITA) (§ 302-17).

In the past, GIPSA has provided several discretionary relocation allowances, such as the GBO for employees transferring between duty stations, primarily to meet critical staffing needs at the duty point. Due to the changes in the real estate market, the General Services Administration renegotiated the contracts with real estate companies that provide this service and increased the fees over 65 percent. Consequently, GIPSA can no longer provide this allowance and conduct operations resourcefully.

4. **POLICY**

GIPSA will no longer authorize the guaranteed home buyout discretionary relocation allowance for employees transferring between duty stations.

Employees transferring between duty stations who need to sell a primary residence may self-sell their homes and take advantage of the relocation allowance, which offers reimbursement in the amount of up to 10 percent of the home's sale price for fees customarily associated with selling a home.

At the discretion of the respective Program Deputy Administrator, or his/her designee, other discretionary allowances may be authorized based on the availability of funds to cover the costs. Additional discretionary allowances that may be authorized include:

Discretionary Allowances <i>(Agencies have <u>discretionary authority to pay or reimburse</u>)</i>	
1. House hunting per diem & transportation, employee & spouse only (§ 302-5). Maximum 10 days.	2. Temporary quarters subsistence expense (§ 302-6). Maximum 120 days. Employee must show proof that they are actively looking for a new residence at new ODS.
3. Shipment of privately owned vehicle (§ 302-9, subpart B)	

5. **QUESTIONS**

Direct any questions regarding this notice to your supervisor or the GIPSA Management and Budget Services Travel Coordinator at (202) 690-0881 for relocation guidance.

/s/ J. Dudley Butler

J. Dudley Butler
Administrator