

SOCO ADVISORY

Department of Defense
Office of General Counsel
Standards of Conduct Office

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1. **Change in the Minimal Value.** Effective January 1, 2023, the General Services Administration published a notice which increased the “minimal value” for purposes of accepting gifts from foreign governments under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act from \$415 to \$480. The notice is posted at:

[Federal Register: Revision to Foreign Gift Minimal Value](#) (see attached)

FMR Bulletin B-50 is posted at:

[Foreign Gifts | GSA](#) (see attached)

2. **Determining Reasonable Costs Under JER 3-211(a)(7).** The “reasonable attendance fee” for DoD employees to attend a conference where DoD personnel will be speaking, as outlined in JER 3-211(a)(7), has been updated. Consistent with past practice, the reasonable attendance fee is adjusted every three years by the same percentage increase or decrease in the “minimal value” amount established by GSA under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA). As reported above, GSA announced that the “minimal value” for purposes of the FGDA has increased to \$480. Accordingly, the reasonable per day attendance fee for purposes of JER 3-211(a)(7) is now \$927 (15.33%, the CPI increase)

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DoD Standards of Conduct Office
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The Daily Journal of the United States Government

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Legal Status

Notice

Revision to Foreign Gift Minimal Value

A Notice by the [General Services Administration](#) on [03/13/2023](#)

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AGENCY:

Office of Government-wide Policy (OGP), General Services Administration (GSA).

ACTION:

Notice of GSA Bulletin FMR B-52, Foreign Gift and Decoration Minimal Value.

SUMMARY:

GSA, in consultation with the U.S. Department of State, must redefine the minimal value of foreign gift items to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding 3-year period, as specified under the law concerning the Receipt and Disposition of Foreign Gifts and Decorations. The minimal value was last defined effective January 1, 2020, and must be redefined effective as of January 1, 2023. This bulletin cancels FMR Bulletin B-50, "Foreign Gift and Decoration Minimal Value," issued March 10, 2020, as this bulletin provides updated information on the same topic.

DATES:

Applicability Date: January 1, 2023.

This notice applies to foreign gifts and decorations received on or after January 1, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For clarification of content, contact Mr. William Garrett, Director, Personal Property Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, Office of Asset and Transportation Management, at 202-368-8163, or by email at william.garrett@gsa.gov. Please cite Notice of GSA Bulletin FMR B-52.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Foreign gifts and decorations above the GSA-defined minimal value are handled differently than lesser-valued foreign gifts and decorations under the provisions of [5 U.S.C. 7342](#) and FMR 102-42.

Foreign gifts and decorations above the minimal value become the property of the Federal Government and must be reported to GSA for disposal if not immediately needed by the agency for official purposes. Additionally, those items initially retained by the agencies for official use are reported to GSA upon termination of official use.

The foreign gifts and decorations minimal value was last redefined effective January 1, 2020, at \$415, and therefore, must be redefined as of January 1, 2023, to reflect the CPI increase of 15.33 percent for the preceding three years.

Pursuant to FMR 102-42.10, the approved revised minimal value will be published in an FMR Bulletin posted on OGP's website (www.gsa.gov/foreigngifts).

Calculations using the consumer prices over the past three years show that the minimal value must increase 15.33 percent from its current \$415, which yields an amount of \$478.62. As in previous years, GSA is rounding the amount to the nearest five dollar increments.

Therefore, GSA is adjusting the new minimal value to \$480.00. Per FMR 102-42.10, an agency may, by regulation, specify a lower value than this Government-wide value for its agency employees.

FMR Bulletin 52 is available at <https://www.gsa.gov/policy-regulations/regulations/federal-management-regulation/federal-management-regulation-fmr-related-files#PersonalPropertyManagement>.

Krystal J. Brumfield,

Associate Administrator, Office of Government-wide Policy.

[[FR Doc. 2023-05093](#) Filed 3-10-23; 8:45 am]

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Foreign Gifts

Minimal Value for Foreign Gifts: \$480.00

Every three years, the GSA is required to revise this minimal value.

Specifically, 5 U.S.C. 7432 requires the Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to redefine every three years the definition for “minimal value” for a foreign gift, based on the changes in the consumer price index for the immediately preceding three years. The implementing regulation is 41 CFR 102-42, “Utilization, Donation, and Disposal of Foreign Gifts and Decorations.” The current minimal value of \$480 was defined in [Federal Management Regulation \(FMR\) Bulletin B-52 \[PDF - 93 KB\]](#) Foreign Gift and Decoration Minimal Value, dated March 6, 2023.