

Federal Surplus FAQ

Why do donees have to pay for property if this is a donation program? The Federal Government donates the property, and GSA allocates it to the State Agencies for Surplus Property (SASP). We require donees to pay a handling charge (H/C) for each item to cover the SASP's operating expenses that are not appropriated in the State budget, such as salaries, equipment, facilities, and the transportation of the property. Finally, for property shipped from overseas locations, the donees must reimburse the SASP for the overseas screener fee.

What is the H/C? The H/C is the donee's total cost for an item, and it includes all transportation costs and any applicable overseas screener fees. It also includes a small percentage of the item's original acquisition cost (ACQ) when it was purchased by the Federal Government. The Indiana SASP will always tell the donee what an item will cost after getting the lowest shipping quote and determining the H/C.

At what point is the donee committed to pay for an item? The donee is not committed to pay for an item that is being offered until we have provided the H/C and the donee agrees in writing to pay that amount. We normally require an email or signed letter from the donee.

Can donees make a direct pick up to save transportation costs? Yes, it is sometimes cheaper for the donee to pick up the property from the Federal storage location, and the SASP can provide a letter of authorization. The amount of savings will depend on where the property is located and the type of vehicle needed to move it. Obviously, donees cannot make direct pickups from overseas locations.

Can property be shipped directly to the donee? Yes, donees can often save money by having the property shipped directly to them. However, the donee must tell us before we finalize the transportation arrangements. Otherwise, the property will be shipped to our warehouse in Indianapolis and the donee will have to pick it up here.

What are the payment terms? The donee receives a copy of the invoice soon after the property is received. Full payment is required within 30 - 90 days. The only acceptable method of payment is a check from the donee organization's account. All other forms of payment will be rejected. State agencies are interdepartmentally billed.

Are there any warranties or guarantees on the condition of the property? No. Unless the property is advertised in new/unused condition, there is always an element of risk involved. Many items are advertised in repairable condition but may require only minor repairs or servicing to make it fully operational. Donees can expect to replace batteries on most vehicles, generators, etc. In the past three years, we have received only one item that was misrepresented to us and was not economically repairable. We did not make the donee pay for it.

How do donees know what is available? Our staff screens for property daily on the GSA website <http://gsaccess.gov/> to determine what is available in the United States. When we find something we know or suspect a donee wants, we send emails to all donees that are on our email distribution list. For items located overseas, our overseas coordinator has full time employees stationed in Europe and SE Asia who travel to the military bases looking for property. They notify us by email, and we forward those to all donees.

Can donees screen for available property? Yes. Any donee who wants to see what is currently available in the United States can request a user name and password to log on to <http://gsaccess.gov/> . Donees can NOT submit requisitions and must notify us when they find something they want.

How does our staff know in advance if a donee needs a specific item? We don't unless you tell us. We maintain a "want" list for such items and give those donees the first chance to accept or decline our offer when we locate the property.

Am I Eligible?

Please refer to the Eligibility Requirements for a breakdown of agencies eligible for Indiana Federal Surplus property. <http://www.in.gov/idoa/2393.htm>