

tions requiring a visa, permit, license, or other similar document, or stamp from the United States Government or from a foreign government or issuing authority pursuant to a bilateral or multilateral agreement, the merchandise shall be subject to detention in accordance with section 1499 of this title unless the appropriate visa, license, permit, or similar document or stamp is presented to the Customs Service; but if the visa, permit, license, or similar document or stamp which is presented in connection with the importation or entry of the merchandise is counterfeit, the merchandise may be seized and forfeited.

(4) If the merchandise is imported or introduced contrary to a provision of law which governs the classification or value of merchandise and there are no issues as to the admissibility of the merchandise into the United States, it shall not be seized except in accordance with section 1592 of this title.

(5) In any case where the seizure and forfeiture of merchandise are required or authorized by this section, the Secretary may—

(A) remit the forfeiture under section 1618 of this title, or

(B) permit the exportation of the merchandise, unless its release would adversely affect health, safety, or conservation or be in contravention of a bilateral or multilateral agreement or treaty.

(d) Merchandise exported contrary to law

Merchandise exported or sent from the United States or attempted to be exported or sent from the United States contrary to law, or the proceeds or value thereof, and property used to facilitate the exporting or sending of such merchandise, the attempted exporting or sending of such merchandise, or the receipt, purchase, transportation, concealment, or sale of such merchandise prior to exportation shall be seized and forfeited to the United States.

(June 17, 1930, ch. 497, title IV, § 596, as added Sept. 1, 1954, ch. 1213, title V, § 502, 68 Stat. 1140; amended Pub. L. 99-570, title III, § 3123, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3207-87; Pub. L. 103-182, title VI, § 624, Dec. 8, 1993, 107 Stat. 2187; Pub. L. 104-132, title VI, § 606, Apr. 24, 1996, 110 Stat. 1290; Pub. L. 109-177, title III, § 311(d), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 242; Pub. L. 110-403, title II, § 209(b), Oct. 13, 2008, 122 Stat. 4264.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Controlled Substances Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(1)(B), is title II of Pub. L. 91-513, Oct. 27, 1970, 84 Stat. 1242, as amended, which is classified principally to subchapter I (§ 801 et seq.) of chapter 13 of Title 21, Food and Drugs. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 801 of Title 21 and Tables.

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (c)(1)(C), “section 80302 of title 49” substituted for “section 1 of the Act of August 9, 1939 (49 U.S.C. App. 781)” on authority of Pub. L. 103-272, § 6(b), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1378, the first section of which enacted subtitles II, III, and V to X of Title 49, Transportation.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (c)(2)(C). Pub. L. 110-403, which directed amendment of section 596(c)(2)(c) of the Tariff Act of

1950 by striking out “or 509”, was executed by striking out “or 509” after “506” in subsec. (c)(2)(C) of this section, which is section 596 of the Tariff Act of 1930, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

2006—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 109-177 added subsec. (d).

1996—Subsec. (c)(1)(D). Pub. L. 104-132 added subpar. (D).

1993—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-182 amended subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (c) read as follows: “Any merchandise that is introduced or attempted to be introduced into the United States contrary to law (other than in violation of section 1592 of this title) may be seized and forfeited.”

1986—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-570, § 3123(1), (2), substituted “subsection (b) or (c) of section 1594” for “the proviso to section 1594” and “may be seized” for “shall be seized”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 99-570, § 3123(3), added subsec. (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-132 effective 1 year after Apr. 24, 1996, see section 607 of Pub. L. 104-132, set out as a note under section 841 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the United States Customs Service of the Department of the Treasury, including functions of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 203(1), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

§§ 1596 to 1598. Repealed. June 25, 1948, ch. 645, § 21, 62 Stat. 862, eff. Sept. 1, 1948

Section 1596, act June 17, 1930, ch. 497, title IV, § 596, 46 Stat. 752, related to buildings on boundary. See section 547 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure.

Section 1597, act June 17, 1930, ch. 497, title IV, § 597, 46 Stat. 752, related to fraudulent treatment of goods in warehouses. See section 548 of Title 18.

Section 1598, acts June 17, 1930, ch. 497, title IV, § 598, 46 Stat. 752; June 25, 1938, ch. 679, § 26, 52 Stat. 1089, related to offenses concerning seals and unlawful removal of goods from custom custody. See section 549 of Title 18.

§ 1599. Officers not to be interested in vessels or cargo

No person employed under the authority of the United States, in the collection of duties on imports or tonnage, shall own, either in whole or in part, any vessel (other than a yacht or other pleasure boat), or act as agent, attorney, or consignee for the owner or owners of any vessel, or of any cargo or lading on board the same; nor shall any such person import, or be concerned directly or indirectly in the importation of, any merchandise for sale into the United States. Every person who violates this section shall be liable to a penalty of \$500.

(June 17, 1930, ch. 497, title IV, § 599, 46 Stat. 753; Pub. L. 95-410, title II, § 212, Oct. 3, 1978, 92 Stat. 904.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Identical provisions were contained in R.S. § 2638, which was superseded by act Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 356, title IV, § 599, 42 Stat. 984, and repealed by section 642 thereof. Section 599 of the 1922 act was superseded by section 599 of act June 17, 1930, comprising this section, and repealed by section 651(a)(1) of the 1930 act.