

Sec.	
14306.	Reciprocity for foreign vessels.
14307.	Inspection of foreign vessels.

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Chapter 143 provides implementing legislation for the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships (Convention) which came into effect in the United States on February 10, 1983. Chapter 143, therefore, is based primarily on the Convention, not on provisions in existing U.S. law.

§ 14301. Application

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, this chapter applies to the following:

- (1) a documented vessel.
- (2) a vessel that is to be documented under chapter 121 of this title.
- (3) a vessel engaged on a foreign voyage.

(b) This chapter does not apply to the following:

- (1) a vessel of war.
- (2) a vessel of less than 24 meters (79 feet) overall in length.
- (3) a vessel operating only on the Great Lakes, unless the owner requests.
- (4) a vessel (except a vessel engaged on a foreign voyage) the keel of which was laid or that was at a similar stage of construction before January 1, 1986, unless—

(A) the owner requests; or

(B) the vessel undergoes a change that the Secretary finds substantially affects the vessel's gross tonnage.

(5) before July 19, 1994, an existing vessel unless—

(A) the owner requests; or

(B) the vessel undergoes a change that the Secretary finds substantially affects the vessel's gross tonnage.

(6) a barge (except a barge engaged on a foreign voyage) unless the owner requests.

(c) A vessel made subject to this chapter at the request of the owner may be remeasured only as provided by this chapter.

(d) After July 18, 1994, an existing vessel (except an existing vessel referred to in subsection (b)(5)(A) or (B) of this section) may retain its tonnages existing on July 18, 1994, for the application of relevant requirements under international agreements (except the Convention) and other laws of the United States. However, if the vessel undergoes a change substantially affecting its tonnage after July 18, 1994, the vessel shall be remeasured under this chapter.

(e) This chapter does not affect an international agreement to which the United States Government is a party that is not in conflict with the Convention or the application of IMO Resolutions A.494 (XII) of November 19, 1981, A.540 (XIII) of November 17, 1983, and A.541 (XIII) of November 17, 1983.

(Pub. L. 99-509, title V, § 5101(3), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1920; Pub. L. 101-595, title III, § 305, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2985.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section 14301

Source: International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships.

Section 14301 delineates which vessels must be measured in compliance with the standards of the Convention.

Section 14301(a) provides that a vessel must be measured under the standards of the Convention if it is documented or required by law to be documented under chapter 121 of this subtitle or if it is engaged on a foreign voyage, unless the vessel is specifically exempted under section 14301(b).

Section 14301(b) provides the following exemptions from the requirement in section 14301(a) to be measured under the Convention:

1. A vessel of war;
2. A vessel of less than 24 meters (79 feet) overall in length ("overall in length" is defined in section 2101);
3. A vessel that operates only on the Great Lakes (although the owner may request that it be measured under the Convention);
4. A vessel whose keel was laid or was at a similar stage of construction before January 1, 1986, and is on a domestic voyage, unless the vessel undergoes a change that significantly changes its tonnage or the owner requests that the vessel be measured under the Convention; and
5. A vessel whose keel was laid or was at a similar stage of construction before July 18, 1982, unless the vessel undergoes a change that significantly changes the vessel's tonnage or the owner requests that the vessel be measured under the Convention.

Together, subsections (b)(4) and (5) provide that, unless the owner requests measurement under the Convention, unaltered vessels built before 1986 engaging only on domestic voyages do not have to be measured under the Convention or use Convention measurement for the application of any domestic laws. Further, these subsections provide that unaltered vessels that are built before July 18, 1982, engaging on foreign voyages do not have to be measured under the Convention until 1994 and are not required to use Convention measurement as a basis for the application of any domestic laws.

Section 14301(c) provides that if a vessel owner requests that the vessel be measured under the Convention, the vessel may only be remeasured under the Convention.

Section 14301(d) provides that after July 18, 1994, a vessel whose keel was laid or was at a similar stage of construction before July 18, 1982 may retain its regulatory tonnage for the application of requirements under U.S. laws or international agreements, except the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships. However, if the vessel was not required to be measured under the Convention, but the vessel's owner requested that the vessel be measured under the Convention system before July 19, 1994, or if the vessel undergoes a change affecting its tonnage, the vessel may not use its regulatory tonnage for the application of U.S. laws or international agreements after July 19, 1994.

Section 14301(e) provides that this chapter does not affect any international agreement to which the United States is a party that is not in conflict with the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969. It further provides that this chapter does not affect the application of the three interim schemes of the International Maritime Organization, which are discussed under section 14305 below.

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (b)(6). Pub. L. 101-595 added par. (6).

REPORT TO CONGRESS

Pub. L. 99-509, title V, § 5103(g), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1927, provided that: "The Secretary of Transportation shall—

"(1) before July 19, 1990, submit to Congress—

"(A) a study of—

"(i) the impact of applying vessel tonnage determined under chapter 143 of title 46 (as enacted