

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (d), Pub. L. 108–293 added subsec. (d).

§ 1154. Discovery and use of cockpit and surface vehicle recordings and transcripts

(a) TRANSCRIPTS AND RECORDINGS.—(1) Except as provided by this subsection, a party in a judicial proceeding may not use discovery to obtain—

(A) any part of a cockpit or surface vehicle recorder transcript that the National Transportation Safety Board has not made available to the public under section 1114(c) or 1114(d) of this title; and

(B) a cockpit or surface vehicle recorder recording.

(2)(A) Except as provided in paragraph (4)(A) of this subsection, a court may allow discovery by a party of a cockpit or surface vehicle recorder transcript if, after an in camera review of the transcript, the court decides that—

(i) the part of the transcript made available to the public under section 1114(c) or 1114(d) of this title does not provide the party with sufficient information for the party to receive a fair trial; and

(ii) discovery of additional parts of the transcript is necessary to provide the party with sufficient information for the party to receive a fair trial.

(B) A court may allow discovery, or require production for an in camera review, of a cockpit or surface vehicle recorder transcript that the Board has not made available under section 1114(c) or 1114(d) of this title only if the cockpit or surface vehicle recorder recording is not available.

(3) Except as provided in paragraph (4)(A) of this subsection, a court may allow discovery by a party of a cockpit or surface vehicle recorder recording if, after an in camera review of the recording, the court decides that—

(A) the parts of the transcript made available to the public under section 1114(c) or 1114(d) of this title and to the party through discovery under paragraph (2) of this subsection do not provide the party with sufficient information for the party to receive a fair trial; and

(B) discovery of the cockpit or surface vehicle recorder recording is necessary to provide the party with sufficient information for the party to receive a fair trial.

(4)(A) When a court allows discovery in a judicial proceeding of a part of a cockpit or surface vehicle recorder transcript not made available to the public under section 1114(c) or 1114(d) of this title or a cockpit or surface vehicle recorder recording, the court shall issue a protective order—

(i) to limit the use of the part of the transcript or the recording to the judicial proceeding; and

(ii) to prohibit dissemination of the part of the transcript or the recording to any person that does not need access to the part of the transcript or the recording for the proceeding.

(B) A court may allow a part of a cockpit or surface vehicle recorder transcript not made

available to the public under section 1114(c) or 1114(d) of this title or a cockpit or surface vehicle recorder recording to be admitted into evidence in a judicial proceeding, only if the court places the part of the transcript or the recording under seal to prevent the use of the part of the transcript or the recording for purposes other than for the proceeding.

(5) This subsection does not prevent the Board from referring at any time to cockpit or surface vehicle recorder information in making safety recommendations.

(6) In this subsection:

(A) RECORDER.—The term “recorder” means a voice or video recorder.

(B) TRANSCRIPT.—The term “transcript” includes any written depiction of visual information obtained from a video recorder.

(b) REPORTS.—No part of a report of the Board, related to an accident or an investigation of an accident, may be admitted into evidence or used in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(d), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 757; Pub. L. 106–424, §5(c)(1), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1885.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
1154(a)	49 App.:1905(c)(3), (d).	Jan. 3, 1975, Pub. L. 93–633, 88 Stat. 2156, §306(c)(3), (d); added Oct. 14, 1982, Pub. L. 97–309, §2, 96 Stat. 1453; restated Nov. 28, 1990, Pub. L. 101–641, §4, 104 Stat. 4655.
1154(b)	49 App.:1441(e). 49 App.:1655(d) (1st sentence). 49 App.:1903(a)(1)(A), (c).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85–726, §701(e), 72 Stat. 781. Oct. 15, 1966, Pub. L. 89–670, §6(d) (1st sentence), 80 Stat. 938. Jan. 3, 1975, Pub. L. 93–633, §304(a)(1)(A), (c), 88 Stat. 2168, 2171.

In subsection (a), the word “transcript” is substituted for “transcriptions” for clarity.

In subsection (a)(1)(A), the words “that the National Transportation Safety Board has not made available to the public” are substituted for “other than such portions made available to the public by the Board” for clarity.

In subsection (a)(2)(B), the words “prepared by or under the direction of the Board” are omitted as unnecessary and for consistency with the source provisions restated in this subsection.

In subsection (b), the words “civil action” are substituted for “suit or action” in 49 App.:1441(e) and 1903(c) for consistency with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 App. U.S.C.).

AMENDMENTS

2000—Pub. L. 106–424, §5(c)(1)(A), substituted “and surface vehicle recordings and transcripts” for “voice and other material” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106–424, §5(c)(1)(B), substituted “cockpit or surface vehicle recorder” for “cockpit voice recorder” wherever appearing.

Pub. L. 106–424, §5(c)(1)(C), substituted “section 1114(c) or 1114(d)” for “section 1114(c)” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 106–424, §5(c)(1)(D), which directed the amendment of this section by adding par. (6) at the end, was executed by adding par. (6) at the end of subsec. (a) to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

§ 1155. Aviation penalties

(a) CIVIL PENALTY.—(1) A person violating section 1132, section 1134(b), section 1134(f)(1), or section 1136(g) (related to an aircraft accident) of this title or a regulation prescribed or order issued under any of those sections is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000. A separate violation occurs for each day a violation continues.

(2) This subsection does not apply to a member of the armed forces of the United States or an employee of the Department of Defense subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice when the member or employee is performing official duties. The appropriate military authorities are responsible for taking necessary disciplinary action and submitting to the National Transportation Safety Board a timely report on action taken.

(3) The Board may compromise the amount of a civil penalty imposed under this subsection.

(4) The Government may deduct the amount of a civil penalty imposed or compromised under this subsection from amounts it owes the person liable for the penalty.

(5) A civil penalty under this subsection may be collected by bringing a civil action against the person liable for the penalty. The action shall conform as nearly as practicable to a civil action in admiralty.

(b) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—A person that knowingly and without authority removes, conceals, or withholds a part of a civil aircraft involved in an accident, or property on the aircraft at the time of the accident, shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(d), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 758; Pub. L. 104-264, title VII, §702(b), Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3267.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES—CONTINUED

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row 1: 1155(b) 49 App.:1472(p). Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85-726, 72 Stat. 731, §902(p); added Oct. 15, 1962, Pub. L. 87-810, §4, 76 Stat. 921; Aug. 5, 1974, Pub. L. 93-366, §103(b), 88 Stat. 410; Dec. 30, 1987, Pub. L. 100-223, §204(e), 101 Stat. 1520.

In subsection (a)(1), the words “section 1132 or 1134(b) or (f)(1) (related to an aircraft accident) of this title” are substituted for “any provision of subchapter . . . VII . . . of this chapter” in 49 App.:1471(a)(1) because those sections restate the relevant source provisions of 49 App.:ch. 20 carried out by the Board. The words “regulation prescribed or order issued under either of those sections” are substituted for “rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder” for clarity and consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code and because “rule” and “regulation” are synonymous. The words “liable to the United States Government” are substituted for “subject to” for clarity. The words “for each such violation” are omitted as unnecessary because of 18:1.

In subsection (a)(2), the word “civilian” is omitted as unnecessary. The words “with respect thereto” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (a)(4), the words “imposed or compromised” are substituted for “finally determined or fixed by order of the Board, or the amount agreed upon in compromise” in 49 App.:1471(a)(2) for consistency and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (a)(5), the words “imposed or assessed” are omitted as surplus. The words “civil action against the person” are substituted for “proceedings in personam against the person” in 49 App.:1473(b)(1) for consistency with rule 2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 App. U.S.C.) and to eliminate unnecessary words. The text of 49 App.:1473(b)(1) (1st sentence words after 1st comma and last sentence) is omitted as unnecessary because penalties imposed by the National Transportation Safety Board do not involve liens on aircraft. The text of 49 App.:1473(b)(4) is omitted as unnecessary because of 28:ch. 131.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Uniform Code of Military Justice, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is classified generally to chapter 47 (§801 et seq.) of Title 10, Armed Forces.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior chapter 31 (§§3101-3104) of subtitle II redesignated and restated as chapter 315 (§§31501-31504) of subtitle VI of this title by Pub. L. 103-272, §1(c), (e).

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 104-264 substituted “, section 1134(b), section 1134(f)(1), or section 1136(g)” for “or 1134(b) or (f)(1)” and “any of” for “either of”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Except as otherwise specifically provided, amendment by Pub. L. 104-264 applicable only to fiscal years beginning after Sept. 30, 1996, and not to be construed as affecting funds made available for a fiscal year ending before Oct. 1, 1996, see section 3 of Pub. L. 104-264, set out as a note under section 106 of this title.

SUBTITLE III—GENERAL AND INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

Chapter 51. Transportation of Hazardous Material 5101
53. Public Transportation 5301

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Rows include 1155(a)(1), (2), 1155(a)(3), (4), 1155(a)(5) with various source citations.