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intermediary pursuant to this section. (See also §545.3 of this chapter.)

(a) *Payment pursuant to Commission order.* If the Commission issues an order for reparation pursuant to sections 11 (46 U.S.C. 41301–41302, 41305–41307(a)) or 14 (46 U.S.C. 41304, 41308–41309) of the Act, or assesses a penalty pursuant to section 13 of the Act (46 U.S.C. 41107–41109), a bond, insurance, or other surety shall be available to pay such order or penalty.

(b) *Payment pursuant to a claim.* (1) If a party does not file a complaint with the Commission pursuant to section 11 of the Act (46 U.S.C. 41301–41302, 41305–41307(a)), but otherwise seeks to pursue a claim against an ocean transportation intermediary bond, insurance or other surety for damages arising from its transportation-related activities, it shall attempt to resolve its claim with the financial responsibility provider prior to seeking payment on any judgment for damages obtained. When a claimant seeks payment under this section, it simultaneously shall notify both the financial responsibility provider and the ocean transportation intermediary of the claim by certified mail, return receipt requested. The bond, insurance, or other surety may be available to pay such claim if:

(i) The ocean transportation intermediary consents to payment, subject to review by the financial responsibility provider; or

(ii) The ocean transportation intermediary fails to respond within forty-five (45) days from the date of the notice of the claim to address the validity of the claim, and the financial responsibility provider deems the claim valid.

(2) If the parties fail to reach an agreement in accordance with paragraph (b)(1) of this section within ninety (90) days of the date of the initial notification of the claim, the bond, insurance, or other surety shall be available to pay any final judgment for damages obtained from an appropriate court. The financial responsibility provider shall pay such judgment for damages only to the extent they arise from the transportation-related activities of the ocean transportation intermediary ordinarily within 30 days, without requiring further evidence related to the

validity of the claim; it may, however, inquire into the extent to which the judgment for damages arises from the ocean transportation intermediary's transportation-related activities.

(c) The Federal Maritime Commission shall not serve as depository or distributor to third parties of bond, guaranty, or insurance funds in the event of any claim, judgment, or order for reparation.

(d) *Optional bond riders.* The Federal Maritime Commission shall not serve as a depository or distributor to third parties of funds payable pursuant to optional bond riders described in §515.25(c).

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999, as amended at 65 FR 26512, May 8, 2000; 65 FR 33480, May 24, 2000; 69 FR 17945, Apr. 6, 2004; 74 FR 50719, Oct. 1, 2009]

§515.24 Agent for service of process.

(a) Every ocean transportation intermediary not located in the United States and every group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries not located in the United States which provides financial coverage for the financial responsibility of a member ocean transportation intermediary shall designate and maintain a person in the United States as legal agent for the receipt of judicial and administrative process, including subpoenas.

(b) If the designated legal agent cannot be served because of death, disability, or unavailability, the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, will be deemed to be the legal agent for service of process. Any person serving the Secretary must also send to the ocean transportation intermediary, or group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries which provide financial coverage for the financial responsibilities of a member ocean transportation intermediary, by registered mail, return receipt requested, at its address published in its tariff, a copy of each document served upon the Secretary, and shall attest to that mailing at the time service is made upon the Secretary.

(c) Service of administrative process, other than subpoenas, may be effected upon the legal agent by mailing a copy of the document to be served by certified or registered mail, return receipt

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requested. Administrative subpoenas shall be served in accordance with § 502.134 of this chapter.

(d) Designations of resident agent under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section and provisions relating to service of process under paragraph (c) of this section shall be published in the ocean transportation intermediary's tariff, when required, in accordance with part 520 of this chapter.

(e) Every ocean transportation intermediary using a group or association of ocean transportation intermediaries to cover its financial responsibility requirement under § 515.21(b) shall publish the name and address of the group or association's resident agent for receipt of judicial and administrative process, including subpoenas, in its tariff, when required, in accordance with part 520 of this chapter.

§ 515.25 Filing of proof of financial responsibility.

(a) *Filing of proof of financial responsibility.* Upon notification by the Commission by certified U.S. mail or other method reasonably calculated to provide actual notice that the applicant has been approved for licensing, the applicant shall file with the Director of the Commission's Bureau of Certification and Licensing, proof of financial responsibility in the form and amount prescribed in § 515.21. No tariff shall be published until a license is issued, if applicable, and proof of financial responsibility is provided. No license will be issued until the Commission is in receipt of valid proof of financial responsibility from the applicant. Should the applicant not file the requisite proof of financial responsibility within 120 days of notification, the Commission will consider the application to be invalid.

(b) *Branch offices.* New proof of financial responsibility, or a rider to the existing proof of financial responsibility, increasing the amount of the financial responsibility in accordance with § 515.21(a)(4), shall be filed with the Commission prior to the date the licensee commences operation of any branch office. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in revocation of the license.

(c) *Optional bond rider.* Any NVOCC as defined by § 515.2(o)(2), in addition to a

bond meeting the requirements of § 515.21(a)(2), may obtain and file with the Commission proof of an optional bond rider, as provided for in appendix E or appendix F of this part.

[64 FR 11171, Mar. 8, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 39860, June 11, 2002; 69 FR 17945, Apr. 6, 2004; 72 FR 56273, Oct. 3, 2007]

§ 515.26 Termination of financial responsibility.

No license shall remain in effect unless valid proof of financial responsibility is maintained on file with the Commission. Upon receipt of notice of termination of such financial responsibility, the Commission shall notify the concerned licensee by certified U.S. mail or other method reasonably calculated to provide actual notice, at its last known address, that the Commission shall, without hearing or other proceeding, revoke the license as of the termination date of the financial responsibility, unless the licensee shall have submitted valid replacement proof of financial responsibility before such termination date. Replacement financial responsibility must bear an effective date no later than the termination date of the expiring financial responsibility.

§ 515.27 Proof of compliance.

(a) No common carrier may transport cargo for the account of a shipper known by the carrier to be an NVOCC unless the carrier has determined that the NVOCC has a tariff and financial responsibility as required by sections 8 (46 U.S.C. 40501-40503) and 19 (46 U.S.C. 40901-40904) of the Act.

(b) A common carrier can obtain proof of an NVOCC's compliance with the tariff and financial responsibility requirements by:

(1) Reviewing a copy of the tariff published by the NVOCC and in effect under part 520 of this chapter;

(2) Consulting the Commission to verify that the NVOCC has filed evidence of its financial responsibility; or

(3) Any other appropriate procedure, provided that such procedure is set forth in the carrier's tariff.

(c) A common carrier that has employed the procedure prescribed in either paragraphs (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section shall be deemed to have met its