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Chapter 21 contains definitions that are general in nature and applicable to all references within Subtitle II—Vessels and Seamen. The chapter provides the basic authority and responsibility for the enforcement and administration of this subtitle with appropriate delegation and reporting requirements.

AMENDMENTS


This chapter is referred to in title 16 section 1862.

$2101. General definitions.

In this subtitle—

(1) “associated equipment”—

(A) means—

(i) a system, accessory, component, or appurtenance of a recreational vessel; or

(ii) a marine safety article intended for use on board a recreational vessel; but

(B) does not include radio equipment.

(2) “barge” means a non-self-propelled vessel.

(3) “Boundary Line” means a line established under section 2(b) of the Act of February 19, 1895 (33 U.S.C. 151).

(3a) “citizen of the United States” means a national of the United States as defined in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22)) or an individual citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands who is exclusively domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands within the meaning of section 1005(e) of the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America (48 U.S.C. 1681 note).

(4) “Coast Guard” means the organization established and continued under section 1 of title 14.

(5) “commercial service” includes any type of trade or business involving the transportation of goods or individuals, except service performed by a combatant vessel.

2 See in original. Only first word should be capitalized.

3 See References in Text note below.
(5a) "consideration" means an economic benefit, inducement, right, or profit including pecuniary payment accruing to an individual, person, or entity, but not including a voluntary sharing of the actual expenses of the voyage, by monetary contribution or donation of fuel, food, beverage, or other supplies.

(6) "consular officer" means an officer or employee of the United States Government designated under regulations to grant visas.

(7) "crude oil" means a liquid hydrocarbon mixture occurring naturally in the earth, whether or not treated to render it suitable for transportation, and includes crude oil from which certain distillate fractions may have been removed, and crude oil to which certain distillate fractions may have been added.

(8) "crude oil tanker" means a tanker engaged in the trade of carrying crude oil.

(8a) "dangerous drug" means a narcotic drug, a controlled substance, or a controlled substance analog (as defined in section 102 of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 (21 U.S.C. 802)).

(9) "discharge", when referring to a substance discharged from a vessel, includes spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, or dumping, however caused.

(10) "documented vessel" means a vessel for which a certificate of documentation has been issued under chapter 121 of this title.

(10a) "Exclusive Economic Zone" means the zone established by Presidential Proclamation Numbered 5030, dated March 10, 1983.

(11) "fish" means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life, except marine mammals and birds.

(11a) "fishing vessel" means a vessel that commercially engages in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish or an activity that can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish.

(11b) "fish processing vessel" means a vessel that commercially prepares fish or fish products other than by gutting, decapitating, gilling, skinning, shucking, icing, freezing, or brine chilling.

(11c) "fish tender vessel" means a vessel that commercially supplies, stores, refrigerates, or transports fish, fish products, or materials directly related to fishing or the preparation of fish to or from a fishing, fish processing, or fish tender vessel or a fish processing facility.

(12) "foreign vessel" means a vessel of foreign registry or operated under the authority of a country except the United States.

(13) "freight vessel" means a motor vessel of more than 15 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title operating on the Great Lakes.

(14) "hazardous material" means a liquid material or substance that is—

(A) flammable or combustible;

(B) designated a hazardous substance under section 311(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321); or

(C) designated a hazardous material under section 5109(a) of title 49;

(14a) "major conversion" means a conversion of a vessel that—

(A) substantially changes the dimensions or carrying capacity of the vessel;

(B) changes the type of the vessel;

(C) substantially prolongs the life of the vessel;

(D) otherwise so changes the vessel that it is essentially a new vessel, as decided by the Secretary.

(15) "marine environment" means—

(A) the navigable waters of the United States and the land and resources in and under those waters;

(B) the waters and fishery resources of an area over which the United States asserts exclusive fishery management authority;

(C) the seabed and subsoil of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, the resources of the Shelf, and the waters superjacent to the Shelf; and

(D) the recreational, economic, and scenic values of the waters and resources referred to in subclauses (A)–(C) of this clause.

(15a) "mobile offshore drilling unit" means a vessel capable of engaging in drilling operations for the exploration or exploitation of subsea resources.

(16) "motor vessel" means a vessel propelled by machinery other than steam.

(17) "nautical school vessel" means a vessel operated by or in connection with a nautical school or an educational institution under section 13 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1986.

(17a) "navigable waters of the United States" includes all waters of the territorial sea of the United States as described in Presidential Proclamation No. 5928 of December 27, 1988.

(17b) "numbered vessel" means a vessel for which a number has been issued under chapter 123 of this title.

(18) "oceanographic research vessel" means a vessel that the Secretary finds is being employed only in instruction in oceanography or limnology, or both, or only in oceanographic or limnological research, including those studies about the sea such as seismic, gravity meter, and magnetic exploration and other marine geophysical or geological surveys, atmospheric research, and biological research.

(19) "offshore supply vessel" means a motor vessel of more than 15 gross tons but less than 500 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this
title that regularly carries goods, supplies, individuals in addition to the crew, or equipment in support of exploration, exploitation, or production of offshore mineral or energy resources.

(20) "oil" includes oil of any type or in any form, including petroleum, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse, and oil mixed with wastes except dredged spoil.

(20a) "oil spill response vessel" means a vessel that is designated in its certificate of inspection as such a vessel, or that is adapted to respond to a discharge of oil or a hazardous material.

(20b) "overall in length" means—

(A) for a foreign vessel or a vessel engaged on a foreign voyage, the greater of—

(i) 96 percent of the length on a waterline at 85 percent of the least molded depth measured from the top of the keel (or on a vessel designed with a rake of keel, on a waterline parallel to the designed waterline); or

(ii) the length from the fore side of the stem to the axis of the rudder stock on that waterline; and

(B) for any other vessel, the horizontal distance of the hull between the foremost part of the stem and the aftermost part of the stern, excluding fittings and attachments.

(21) "passenger"—

(A) means an individual carried on the vessel except—

(i) the owner or an individual representative of the owner or, in the case of a vessel under charter, an individual charterer or individual representative of the charterer;

(ii) the master; or

(iii) a member of the crew engaged in the business of the vessel who has not contributed consideration for carriage and who is paid for on board services;

(B) on an offshore supply vessel, means an individual carried on the vessel except—

(i) an individual included in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph;

(ii) an employee of the owner, or of a subcontractor to the owner, engaged in the business of the owner;

(iii) an employee of the charterer, or of a subcontractor to the charterer, engaged in the business of the charterer;

(iv) an employee of the charterer, or of a subcontractor to the charterer, engaged in the business of the charterer; or

(v) an observer or sea sampler on board the vessel pursuant to a requirement of State or Federal law; or

(D) on a sailing school vessel, means an individual carried on the vessel except—

(i) an individual included in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph;

(ii) an employee of the owner of the vessel engaged in the business of the owner, except when the vessel is operating under a demise charter;

(iii) an employee of the demise charterer of the vessel engaged in the business of the demise charterer; or

(iv) a sailing school instructor or sailing school student.

(21a) "passenger for hire" means a passenger for whom consideration is contributed as a condition of carriage on the vessel, whether directly or indirectly flowing to the owner, charterer, operator, agent, or any other person having an interest in the vessel.

(22) "passenger vessel" means a vessel of at least 100 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title—

(A) carrying more than 12 passengers, including at least one passenger for hire;

(B) that is chartered and carrying more than 12 passengers; or

(C) that is a submersible vessel carrying at least one passenger for hire.

(23) "product carrier" means a tanker engaged in the trade of carrying oil except crude oil.

(24) "public vessel" means a vessel that—

(A) is owned, or demise chartered, and operated by the United States Government or a government of a foreign country; and

(B) is not engaged in commercial service.

(25) "recreational vessel" means a vessel—

(A) being manufactured or operated primarily for pleasure; or

(B) leased, rented, or chartered to another for the latter’s pleasure.

(26) "recreational vessel manufacturer" means a person engaged in the manufacturing, construction, assembly, or importation of recreational vessels, components, or associated equipment.

(27) "sailing instruction" means teaching, research, and practical experience in operating vessels propelled primarily by sail and may include—

(A) any subject related to that operation and to the sea, including seamanship, navigation, oceanography, other nautical and marine sciences, and maritime history and literature; and

(B) only when in conjunction with a subject referred to in subclause (A) of this clause, instruction in mathematics and language arts skills to sailing school students having learning disabilities.

(28) "sailing school instructor" means an individual who is on board a sailing school ves-
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TITLE 46—SHIPPING

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uses its to provide sailing instruction, but does not include an operator or crewmember who is among those required to be on board the vessel to meet a requirement established under part F of this subtitle.

(29) "sailing school student" means an individual who is on board a sailing school vessel to receive sailing instruction.

(30) "sailing school vessel" means a vessel—

- that is less than 300 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title;
- carrying more than 6 individuals who are sailing school instructors or sailing school students;
- principally equipped for propulsion by sail, even if the vessel has an auxiliary means of propulsion; and
- owned or demise chartered, and operated by an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of that Code, or by a State or political subdivision of a State, during times that the vessel is operated by the organization, State, or political subdivision only for sailing instruction.

(31) "scientific personnel" means individuals on board an oceanographic research vessel only to engage in scientific research, or to instruct or receive instruction in oceanography or limnology.

(32) "seagoing motor vessel" means a motor vessel of at least 300 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title making voyages beyond the Boundary Line.

(33) "Secretary", except in part H, means the head of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(34) "small passenger vessel" means a vessel of less than 100 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title—

- carrying not more than 6 passengers, including at least one passenger for hire;
- that is chartered with no crew provided or specified by the owner or the owner's representative and carrying not more than 12 passengers;
- that is capable of operating below the surface of the water.

(35) "steam vessel" means a vessel propelled in whole or in part by steam, except a recreational vessel of not more than 40 feet in length.

(36) "State" means a State of the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

(37) "tank vessel" means a vessel that is constructed or adapted to carry, or that carries, oil or hazardous material in bulk in the cargo spaces.

(38) "towing vessel" means a commercial vessel engaged in or intending to engage in the service of pulling, pushing, or hauling along side, or any combination of pulling, pushing, or hauling along side.

(39) "undocumented" means not having and not required to have a document issued under chapter 121 of this title.

(40) "uninspected passenger vessel" means an uninspected vessel—

- of at least 100 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title—
  - carrying not more than 12 passengers, including at least one passenger for hire; or
  - that is chartered with the crew provided or specified by the owner or the owner's representative and carrying not more than 12 passengers; and
- of less than 100 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title—
  - carrying not more than 6 passengers, including at least one passenger for hire; or
  - that is chartered with the crew provided or specified by the owner or the owner's representative and carrying not more than 6 passengers.

(41) "vessel" has the same meaning given that term in section 3 of title 1.

(42) "vessel of war" means a vessel—

- belonging to the armed forces of a country;
- bearing the external marks distinguishing vessels of war of that country;
(C) under the command of an officer commissioned by the government of that country and whose name appears in the appropriate service list or its equivalent; and

(D) staffed by a crew under regular armed forces discipline.


HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

A number of definitions are provided because of the need to define jurisdictional and applicability limits of various sections to the many types and classes of vessels.

Revised section | Source section (U.S. Code)
--- | ---
2101(1) | 46:1452(b)
2101(2) | 1:3
2101(3) | 46:390(b)
2101(4) | 46:390(b)
2101(5) | 46:391a(2)(B)
2101(6) | 46:391a(2)(1)
2101(7) | 46:391a(2)(N)
2101(8) | 46:391a(2)(A)
2101(9) | 46:651(a)
2101(10) | 46:597
2101(11) | 46:599
2101(12) | 46:601
2101(13) | 46:602
2101(14) | 46:603
2101(15) | 46:604
2101(16) | 46:605
2101(17) | 46:606
2101(18) | 46:607
2101(19) | 46:608
2101(20) | 46:609
2101(21) | 46:610
2101(22) | 46:611
2101(23) | 46:612
2101(24) | 46:613
2101(25) | 46:614
2101(26) | 46:615
2101(27) | 46:616
2101(28) | 46:617
2101(29) | 46:618
2101(30) | 46:619
2101(31) | 46:620
2101(32) | 46:621
2101(33) | 46:622
2101(34) | 46:623
2101(35) | 46:624
2101(36) | 46:625
2101(37) | 46:626
2101(38) | 46:627
2101(39) | 46:628
2101(40) | 46:629
2101(41) | 46:630
2101(42) | 46:631
2101(43) | 46:632
2101(44) | 46:633
2101(45) | 46:634
2101(46) | 46:635

Section 2101(1) defines the term ‘‘associated equipment’’ that is involved in the use of recreational boats that are subject to Federal regulatory authority. This equipment is subject to a number of controls under federally established construction and performance standards. Radio equipment is exempt from these regulatory controls, since this equipment continues to be regulated by the Federal Communications Commission.

Section 2101(2) defines ‘‘barge’’ as a vessel that is non-self-propelled and that is often pushed ahead, towed alongside, or towed astern on a hawser by a towing vessel. It does not include a vessel that is propelled by sail only.

Section 2101(3) defines ‘‘boundary line’’ for the establishment of jurisdictional parameters for various maritime safety laws. Public Law 96-324, codified at 33 U.S.C. 151, permits the Secretary to establish appropriate identifiable lines dividing land waters of the U.S. from the high seas for the purpose of determining the applicability of these laws. These laws will now be included within subtitle II of title 46—Shipping. These lines may not be located more than 12 nautical miles seaward of the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured and may differ in position for the purposes of different parts or sections of subtitle II.

Section 2101(4) defines ‘‘Coast Guard’’.

Section 2101(5) provides that wherever the term ‘‘commercial service’’ is used it is to include all vessels except those that are primarily used for combatant purposes. This is to make sure that vessels that are engaged in the transportation of goods or individuals are subject to the applicable maritime and environmental laws, even if they are sovereign controlled vessels.

Section 2101(6) defines ‘‘consular officer’’ as one who has authority to issue visas. Traditionally this person is knowledgeable and familiar with the maritime safety and seamen’s welfare laws.

Section 2101(7) defines ‘‘crude oil’’ because certain equipment requirements like inert gas systems, segregated ballast tanks, crude oil washing systems or special ballast arrangements are applicable only to tank vessels that carry crude oil. Crude oil is still included within the definition of ‘‘hazardous material’’ and ‘‘oil’’.

Section 2101(8) defines a ‘‘crude oil tanker’’ as one engaged in carrying crude oil. The definition does not include a tank barge since a tanker is defined as a self-propelled tank vessel. See also 2101(38).

Section 2101(9) makes it clear that the term ‘‘discharge’’ when referring to a substance that emanates from a vessel and is related to the marine environmental laws concerning pollution by oil or hazardous substances.

Section 2101(10) defines a ‘‘documented vessel’’ as any vessel of the United States that has been issued a certificate of documentation that might include a registry, enrollment, license, or enrollment and license for various trades.

Section 2101(11) lists what is included in the term ‘‘fisheries’’ for the purpose of documentation of vessels and is intended to be all-inclusive of the numerous types of fishing activities.

Section 2101(12) defines ‘‘foreign vessel’’ as any foreign flag or foreign operated vessel that is operated under the jurisdiction or authority of a government other than the United States.
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Section 2101(13) defines a “freight vessel” as a motor vessel or any vessel propelled by diesel or other internal combustion engines and that carries freight for hire.

Section 2101(14) defines “hazardous materials” as a broad range of materials that are not only flammable or combustible but are also designated under related maritime safety and environmental laws.

Section 2101(15) defines “marine environment” as an all-inclusive term that was developed to cover land and water areas that could be affected by pollution from all vessels and not only tank vessels.

Section 2101(16) defines “motor vessel” as a vessel propelled by machinery other than steam to make it clear that these vessels are not steam vessels.

Section 2101(17) defines “nautical school vessel” as a vessel that can be a privately owned and operated as well as a publicly owned and operated school vessel.

Section 2101(18) defines “oceanographic research vessel” as a vessel employed in oceanography or limnology research or instruction. It is defined because this type of vessel, while not inspected and certified as such, is subject to a number of special statutory and regulatory requirements.

Section 2101(19) defines “offshore supply vessel” as a class of vessel that is limited by tonnage and its employment in the mineral and oil industry and while so employed it is not a small passenger vessel.

Section 2101(20) defines “oil” to include oil of any type, in any form, or in any mixture. This is the definition that originated with marine environment and pollution laws and continues the definition that was adopted by port and tanker safety laws.

Section 2101(21) defines the term “passengers” in relation to various types of vessels. Due to the complexity of existing laws with respect to the definitions of “passenger” on various categories of vessels and the need to not make any changes of a substantive nature that could be construed as controversial, four definitions of “passenger” have been included.

Section 2101(22) defines “passenger vessel” as one that is at least 100 gross tons and carries at least one passenger for hire.

Section 2101(23) defines “product carrier” as a tanker that is engaged in carrying oil. This definition when read with the definition of tanker means that it is a self-propelled vessel. A tank barge carrying oil products is a tank vessel but is not subject to the special standards or requirements for a product carrier.

Section 2101(24) defines a “public vessel” as a governmental vessel that is not in commercial service. It should be noted that a sovereign-controlled foreign-flag vessel that is engaged in commercial service is not a public vessel and is subject to maritime safety and environmental laws.

Section 2101(25) defines a “recreational vessel” as a class of vessel whose primary purpose is for pleasure. These vessels while not subject to inspection are subject to certain requirements of law to improve boating safety.

Section 2101(26) defines a “recreational vessel manufacturer” as one that is involved with not only the recreational vessels themselves but also with their components or associated equipment.

Section 2101(27), (28), (29), and (30) provides a number of definitions that define the type of instruction, instructor, student, and vessel that is involved in the teaching of sailing.

Section 2101(31) defines “scientific personnel” as individuals engaged in oceanography or limnology because they are specially treated under various maritime safety requirements.

Section 2101(32) defines a “seagoing barge” as a vessel that is at least 100 gross tons making voyages to sea beyond the boundary line.

Section 2101(33) defines a “seagoing motor vessel” as a vessel that must be a motor vessel, as defined in 2101(15), of at least 300 gross tons making voyages to sea beyond the boundary line.

Section 2101(34) defines “Secretary” as a vessel engaged in oceanography or limnology research or instruction. It is defined because this type of vessel, which is defined in section 2101(39), this subclass definition is necessary because certain statutory minimum requirements that are consistent with internationally accepted standards are solely applicable to these vessels.

Section 2101(35) defines “small passenger vessel” as one that is less than 100 gross tons carrying more than six passengers as defined in section 2101(21).

Section 2101(36) defines “State” as a State, territory or possession of the United States and is used to establish jurisdictional limits for the application of the various maritime safety and environmental safety laws of this subtitle. This definition is further limited by definitions in section 2102 that relate to recreational boating safety and facility improvement programs.

Section 2101(37) defines a “steam vessel” as a vessel propelled by steam. However, steam vessels of not more than 40 feet that are used exclusively for pleasure are not included.

Section 2101(38) defines “tanker” as a self-propelled tank vessel that has been constructed or primarily adapted to carry oil or hazardous material in bulk in the cargo spaces. This vessel is a subclass of tank vessel, which is defined in section 2101(39). This subclass definition is necessary because certain statutory minimum requirements that are consistent with internationally accepted standards are solely applicable to these vessels.

Section 2101(39) defines a “tank vessel” as a vessel carrying oil or hazardous materials in bulk or residue including a tanker as defined in section 2101(38).

Section 2101(40) defines “towing vessel” as a vessel in commercial service that pushes, pulls, or tows alongside and includes what is traditionally known as a tug.

Section 2101(41) defines “undocumented” which, in part, facilitates the classification of vessels that may be numbered by the proper issuing authority in a State.

Section 2101(42) defines an “uninspected passenger vessel” as a vessel carrying six or less passengers.

Section 2101(43) defines an “uninspected vessel” as a vessel not subject to inspection and certification by the Coast Guard under section 3301. Recreational vessels and inland towing vessels are typical uninspected vessels.

Section 2101(44) defines “United States” to establish geographical boundaries for the applicability of the various maritime safety and environmental safety laws of this subtitle. This definition is further limited by definitions in section 2102 that relate to recreational boating safety and facility improvement programs.

Section 2101(45) makes it clear that “vessel” as used in this subtitle has the same meaning as is provided in section 3 of title 1, of the U.S.C.

Section 2101(46) defines “vessel of the United States” as a vessel that is documented or numbered under the laws of the United States. A documented vessel and those vessels that are numbered by a State or Federal authority are afforded the protection of the laws of the United States.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1005(e) of the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, referred to in par. (3a), is set out as a note under section 1801 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

Presidential Proclamation Numbered 5030, referred to in par. (10a), is set out under section 1453 of Title 16, Conservation.


Presidential Proclamation No. 5928, referred to in par. (17a), is set out under section 1331 of Title 43, Public Lands.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Pars. (17a), (17b). Pub. L. 105–383 added par. (17a) and redesignated former par. (17a) as (17b).

as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title" after "13 gross tons".

Par. (13a). Pub. L. 104–324, §709(2), inserted "as measured under section 14502 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title" after "3,500 gross tons".

Par. (13b). Pub. L. 104–324, §709(3), inserted "as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title" after "500 gross tons".


Par. (20b). Pub. L. 104–324, §1104(a)(1), redesignated par. (20a) as (20b).

Par. (22). Pub. L. 104–324, §709(4), inserted "as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title" after "100 gross tons".

Par. (30a). Pub. L. 104–324, §709(b), inserted "as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title" after "300 gross tons".

Par. (35). Pub. L. 104–324, §709(b), inserted "as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title" after "100 gross tons".

Par. (42). Pub. L. 104–324, §709(b), inserted "as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title" after "100 gross tons carrying at least one passenger for hire".

Par. (21). Pub. L. 103–206, §502, amended par. (21) generally, substituting subpars. (A) to (D) defining "passenger" for former subpars. (A) to (F) defining "passenger".


Par. (22). Pub. L. 103–206, §503, amended par. (22) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (22) read as follows: "passenger vessel means a vessel of at least 100 gross tons carrying at least one passenger for hire."

Par. (23). Pub. L. 103–206, §509, substituted "more than 6" for "at least 6".

Par. (35). Pub. L. 103–206, §504, amended par. (35) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (35) read as follows: "small passenger vessel means a vessel of less than 100 gross tons carrying more than 6 passengers (as defined in clause (21)(B) and (F) of this section)."


Par. (42). Pub. L. 103–206, §505, amended par. (42) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (42) read as follows: "uninspected passenger vessel means an uninspected vessel carrying not more than 6 passengers."


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FISHING AND FISH TENDER VESSELS

Section 321 of Pub. L. 103–206 provided that:

“(a) In this section, ‘fish tender vessel’, ‘fishing vessel’, and ‘tank vessel’ have the meanings given those terms under section 2101 of title 46, United States Code,

“(b) A fishing vessel or fish tender vessel of not more than 750 gross tons, when engaged only in the fishing industry, shall not be deemed to be a tank vessel for the purposes of any law.

“(c)(1) This section does not affect the authority of the Secretary of Transportation under chapter 33 of title 46, United States Code, to regulate the operation of the vessels listed in subsection (b) to ensure the safe carriage of oil and hazardous substances.

“(2) This section does not affect the requirement for fish tender vessels engaged in the Aleutian trade to comply with chapters 33, 45, 51, 81, and 87 of title 46, United States Code, as provided in the Aleutian Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–595) [see Short Title of 1990 Amendment note above].”

APPLICABILITY DATE FOR REVISED REGULATIONS

Section 513 of Pub. L. 103–206 provided that:

“(a) APPLICABILITY DATE FOR CERTAIN CHARTERED VESSELS.—Revised regulations governing small passenger vessels and passenger vessels (as the definitions of those terms in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code, are amended by this Act) shall not affect the date that is 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act (Dec. 20, 1993), apply to such vessels when chartered with no crew provided.

“(b) EXTENSION OF PERIOD.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall extend for up to 30 additional months or until issuance of a certificate of inspection, whichever occurs first, the period of inapplicability specified in subsection (a) if the owner of the vessel concerned carries out the provisions of subsection (c) to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

“(c) CONDITIONS FOR EXTENSION.—To receive an extension authorized by subsection (b), the owner of the vessel shall—

“(1) make application for inspection with the Coast Guard within 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 20, 1993];

“(2) make the vessel available for examination by the Coast Guard prior to the carriage of passengers;

“(3)(A) correct especially any hazardous conditions involving the vessel’s structure, electrical system, and machinery installation, such as (i) grossly inadequate, missing, unsafe, or severely deteriorated frames or major structural members; (ii) wiring systems or electrical appliances without proper grounding or overcurrent protection; and (iii) significant fuel or exhaust system leaks;

“(B) equip the vessel with lifesaving and fire fighting equipment, or the portable equivalent, required for the route and number of persons carried; and

“(C) verify through stability tests, calculations, or other practical means (which may include a history of safe operations) that the vessel’s stability is satisfactory for the size, route, and number of passengers; and

“(d) develop a work plan approved by the Coast Guard to complete in a good faith effort all requirements necessary for issuance of a certificate of inspection as soon as practicable.

“(e) OPERATION OF VESSEL DURING EXTENSION PERIOD.—The owner of a vessel receiving an extension under this section shall operate the vessel under the conditions of route, service, number of passengers, manning, and equipment as may be prescribed by the Coast Guard for the extension period.”

TANK VESSEL DEFINITION CLARIFICATION


“(a) In this section, ‘offshore supply vessel’, ‘fish tender vessel’, ‘fishing vessel’, and ‘tank vessel’ have the
§ 2102. Limited definitions

(a) In chapters 37, 43, 51, and 123 of this title and part I of this subtitle—

(1) "eligible State" means a State that has a State recreational boating safety program accepted by the Secretary.

(2) "State" and "United States", in addition to their meanings under section 2101(36) and 101(3), include the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(b) In chapters 33, 45, 51, 81, and 87 of this title, "Aleutian trade" means the transportation of cargo (including fishery related products) for hire on board a fish tender vessel to or from a place in Alaska West of 153 degrees west longitude and east of 172 degrees East longitude, if that place receives weekly common carrier service by water, to or from a place in the United States (except a place in Alaska).


HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section Source section (U.S. Code)

2102 .............................................. 46:1452(b)(14)

Section 2102 contains a number of definitions that are limited to recreational vessels in Chapter 43 of Part B and the numbering of these vessels in Chapter 123 of Part H.

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99–307 substituted "subtitle. The Secretary may prescribe regulations to carry out the provisions of this subtitle" for "subtitle and regulations prescribed under this subtitle".

§ 2104. Delegation

(a) The Secretary may delegate the duties and powers conferred by this subtitle to any officer,
employee, or member of the Coast Guard, and may provide for the subdelegation of those duties and powers.

(b) When this subtitle authorizes an officer or employee of the Customs Service to act in place of a Coast Guard official, the Secretary may designate that officer or employee subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury.


**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES**

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Section 2104 provides the Secretary with authority to delegate duties and powers to others. It also contains the authority to designate an officer or employee of the United States Customs Service to act in the place of a Coast Guard official.

§ 2105. Report

The Secretary shall provide for the investigation of the operation of this subtitle and of all laws related to marine safety, and shall require that a report be made to the Secretary annually about those matters that may require improvement or amendment.


**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES**

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Section 2105 requires the Secretary to investigate the operation of this subtitle and all laws related to maritime safety and requires appropriate reports to ensure that the Secretary is attentive to all the shipping laws under the Secretary’s superintendence.

§ 2106. Liability in rem

When a vessel is made liable in rem under this subtitle, the vessel may be libeled and proceeded against in a district court of the United States in which the vessel is found.


**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES**

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Section 2106 provides that when a vessel is made liable in rem the vessel may be libeled and proceeded against in a United States district court.

§ 2107. Civil penalty procedures

(a) After notice and an opportunity for a hearing, a person found by the Secretary to have violated this subtitle or a regulation prescribed under this subtitle for which a civil penalty is provided, is liable to the United States Government for the civil penalty provided. The amount of the civil penalty shall be assessed by the Secretary by written notice. In determining the amount of the penalty, the Secretary shall consider the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts committed and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and other matters that justice requires.

(b) The Secretary may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without consideration, a civil penalty under this subtitle. The assessment is referred to the Attorney General.

(c) If a person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty after it has become final, the Secretary may refer the matter to the Attorney General for collection in an appropriate district court of the United States.


**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES**

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Section 2107 provides for standard procedures for the handling of civil penalties for infractions of law or regulation. Some changes were made to increase some antiquated and inadequate penalties.

The assessment of civil penalties under this section should not require an “on the record” hearing within the meaning of the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). It is intended that these civil penalties be assessed in a fair manner. However, the Committee recognizes that statutes passed in the last decade have involved the Coast Guard in tens of thousands of civil penalty enforcement cases and that it is necessary that the penalties be assessed efficiently. The Coast Guard’s procedural regulations for assessing civil penalties ensure that the essential elements of due process, notice, and opportunity to be heard, are provided to alleged violators (see 33 CFR Subpart 1.07). The more rigid and time-consuming procedures applicable to APA adjudications are unwarranted in the case of Coast Guard civil penalty assessment procedures and would seriously hamper the orderly enforcement of these administrative penalties.

**SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS**

This section is referred to in sections 251a, 883–1, 883a of Appendix to this title.

§ 2108. Refund of penalties

The Secretary may refund or remit a civil penalty collected under this subtitle if:

(1) application has been made for refund or remission of the penalty within one year from the date of payment; and

(2) the Secretary finds that the penalty was unlawfully, improbably, or excessively imposed.


**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES**

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Section 2108 provides for the refunding of civil penalties.
§ 2109. Public vessels

Except as otherwise provided, this subtitle does not apply to a public vessel of the United States. However, this subtitle does apply to a vessel (except a Coast Guard or a Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation vessel) owned or operated by the Department of Transportation or by any corporation organized or controlled by the Department.


HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section Source section (U.S. Code)
2109 46:362
  46:363
  46:391a(d)

Section 2109 exempts public vessels from the applicability of the maritime safety and seamen’s welfare laws of this subtitle although some public vessels are inspected under interagency voluntary agreements.

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99–509 substituted “Except as otherwise provided, this’” for “‘This’”.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 50 App. section 1744.

§ 2110. Fees

(a)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the Secretary shall establish a fee or charge for a service or thing of value provided by the Secretary under this subtitle, in accordance with section 9701 of title 31.

(2) The Secretary may not establish a fee or charge under paragraph (1) for inspection or examination of a non-self-propelled tank vessel owned or operated by the Department of Transportation or by any corporation organized or controlled by the Department.

(b)(1) The Secretary shall establish a fee or charge as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, and collect it annually in fiscal years 1993 and 1994, from the owner or operator of each recreational vessel to which paragraph (2) of this subsection applies.

(2) The fee or charge established under paragraph (1) of this subsection is as follows:

(A) in fiscal year 1993—

(i) for vessels of more than 21 feet in length but less than 27 feet, not more than $35;

(ii) for vessels of at least 27 feet in length but less than 40 feet, not more than $50; and

(iii) for vessels of at least 40 feet in length, not more than $100.

(B) in fiscal year 1994—

(i) for vessels of at least 37 feet in length but less than 40 feet, not more than $50; and

(ii) for vessels of at least 40 feet in length, not more than $100.

(3) The fee or charge established under this subsection applies only to vessels operated on the navigable waters of the United States where the Coast Guard has a presence.

(4) The fee or charge established under this subsection does not apply to—

(A) public vessel; or

(B) vessel deemed to be a public vessel under section 827 of title 14.

(5) The Secretary shall provide to each person who pays a fee or charge under this subsection a separate document on which appears, in readily discernible print, only the following statement: ‘‘The fees provided was established under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990. Persons paying this fee can expect no increase in the quantity, quality, or variety of services the person receives from the Coast Guard as a result of that payment.’’

(c) In addition to the collection of fees and charges established under subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary may recover appropriate collection and enforcement costs associated with delinquent payments of the fees and charges.

(d)(1) The Secretary may employ any Federal, State, or local agency or instrumentality, or any private enterprise or business, to collect a fee or charge established under this section. A private enterprise or business selected by the Secretary to collect fees or charges—

(A) shall be subject to reasonable terms and conditions agreed to by the Secretary and the enterprise or business;

(B) shall provide appropriate accounting to the Secretary; and

(C) may not institute litigation as part of that collection.

(2) A Federal agency shall account for the agency’s costs of collecting the fee or charge under this subsection as a reimbursable expense, and the costs shall be credited to the account from which expended.

(e) A person that violates this section by failing to pay a fee or charge established under this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than $5,000 for each violation.

1 So in original. Probably should be “subtitle”.

2 So in original. The period probably should be “; and”.

3 So in original. Probably should be “fee”.
§ 2110

and oath; indorsement of change of master; certifying enrollment, including all indorsements on the same census or granting of certificate of registry, record, or tests station shall be paid by such owners; issuing of li-
ters of such vessels at the request of the owners hypothecation or conveyance, or the discharge of such mortgage or hypothecation; furnishing certificate of title; furnishing the crew list; certificate of protection to seamen; bill of health; shipping or discharging of seamen; apprenticesing boys to the merchant service; ins-
pecking, examining, and licensing steam vessels, in-
cluding inspection certificate and copies thereof; and licensing of master, engineer, pilot, or mate of a vessel.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, re-

AMENDMENTS


1996—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 104–324, § 1112, which di-
rected amendment of section 10601(g) of Pub. L. 101–508 by inserting ‘‘The Secretary may not establish a fee or charge under paragraph (1) for inspection or examination of a small passenger vessel under this title that is more than $300 annually for such vessels under 65 feet in length, or more than $600 annually for such vessels 65 feet in length and greater.’’ was executed by making insertion in subsec. (a)(2) of this section to reflect the probable intent of Congress, because section 10601(a) of Pub. L. 101–508 amended this section gener-
ally, and section 10601 of Pub. L. 101–508 did not contain a subsec. (g).

1992—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 102–582, § 501(a)(1), sub-
tituted ‘‘1993 and 1994’’ for ‘‘1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995’’ and to which paragraph (2) of this subsection applies’’ for ‘‘that is greater than 16 feet in length’’. Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 102–582, § 501(a)(2), amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (2) read as follows: ‘‘The fee or charge established under paragraph (1) of this subsection is as follows: ‘‘(A) for vessels greater than 16 feet in length but less than 20 feet, not more than $25; ‘‘(B) for vessels of at least 20 feet in length but less than 27 feet, not more than $35; ‘‘(C) for vessels of at least 27 feet in length but less than 40 feet, not more than $50; and ‘‘(D) for vessels of at least 40 feet in length, not more than $100.’’’ Subsec. (j). Pub. L. 102–587 added subsec. (j).


1990—Pub. L. 101–508, as amended by Pub. L. 104–324, substituted ‘‘Fees’’ for ‘‘Fees prohibited’’ as section catchline and amended text generally. Prior to amend-
text read as follows: ‘‘Fees may not be charged or collected by the Secretary for services provided for in this subtitle related to the engagement and dis-
charge of seamen, the inspection and examination of vessels under part B of this subtitle, and the licensing of masters, mates, pilots, and engineers’’. See 1996 Amend-
ment note above.

1988—Pub. L. 100–710 substituted ‘‘and the licensing of masters, mates, pilots, and engineers’’ for ‘‘the licens-
ing of masters, mates, pilots, and engineers, except when specifically provided for in this subtitle.’’ See 1996 Amend-
ment note above.

Section 2110 prevents the assessment of user fees for certain maritime safety and seamen’s welfare services unless otherwise provided for by law. These include:
Measurement of tonnage and certifying the same, ex-
ccept that the compensation and necessary travel and subsistence expenses of the officers so measuring or certifying such vessels at the request of the owners thereof at a place other than a port of entry or a cus-
toms station shall be paid by such owners; issuing of li-

ence or granting of certificate of registry, record, or endorsement, including all indorsements on the same and oath; indorsement of change of master; certifying and receiving manifest, including master’s oath and permit; granting permit to vessels licensed for the fisheries; granting certificate of payment of tonnage dues; recording bill of sale, mortgage, hypothecation or conveyance, or the discharge of such

*So in original. Probably should be capitalized.
§ 2111. Pay for overtime services

(a) The Secretary may prescribe a reasonable rate of extra pay for overtime services of civilian officers and employees of the Coast Guard required to remain on duty between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m., or on Sundays or holidays, to perform services related to—

(1) the inspection of vessels or their equipment;
(2) the engagement and discharge of crews of vessels;
(3) the measurement of vessels; and
(4) the documentation of vessels.

(b) Except for Sundays and holidays, the overtime rate provided under subsection (a) of this section is one-half day’s additional pay for each 2 hours of overtime (or part of 2 hours of at least one hour). The total extra pay may be not more than 2 and one-half days’ pay for any one period from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m.

(c) The overtime rate provided under subsection (a) of this section for Sundays and holidays is 2 additional days’ pay.

(d) The owner, charterer, managing operator, agent, master, or individual in charge of the vessel shall pay the amount of the overtime pay provided under this section to the official designated by regulation. The official shall deposit the amount paid to the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts. Payment to the officer or employee entitled to the pay shall be made from the annual appropriations for salaries and expenses of the Coast Guard.

(e) The overtime pay provided under this section shall be paid if the authorized officers and employees have been ordered to report for duty and have reported, even if services requested were not performed.


HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Section 2111 provides for the payment of overtime rates for work performed by civilian officers and employees of the Coast Guard for certain specified activities.

§ 2112. Authority to change working hours

In a port at which the customary working hours begin before 8 a.m. or end after 5 p.m., the Secretary may regulate the working hours of the officers and employees referred to in section 2111 of this title so that those hours conform to the prevailing working hours of the port. However—

(1) the total period for which overtime pay may be required under section 2111 of this title may not be more than 15 hours between any 2 periods of ordinary working hours on other than Sundays and holidays;

(2) the length of the working day for the officers and employees involved may not be changed; and

(3) the rate of overtime pay may not be changed.


HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Section 2112 provides the Secretary with the authority to regulate the working hours of civilian officers and employees of the Coast Guard to conform with the prevailing working hours of a port.

§ 2113. Authority to exempt certain vessels

If the Secretary decides that the application of a provision of part B, C, F, or G of this subtitle is not necessary in performing the mission of the vessel engaged in excursions or an oceanographic research vessel, or not necessary for the safe operation of certain vessels carrying passengers, the Secretary by regulation may—

(1) for a vessel, issue a special permit specifying the conditions of operation and equipment;

(2) exempt an oceanographic research vessel from that provision under conditions the Secretary may specify;

(3) establish different operating and equipment requirements for vessels defined in section 2101(42)(A) of this title;

(4) establish different structural fire protection, manning, operating, and equipment requirements for vessels of at least 100 gross tons but less than 300 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title carrying not more than 150 passengers on domestic voyages if the owner of the vessel—

(A) makes application for inspection to the Coast Guard within 6 months of the date of enactment of the Passenger Vessel Safety Act of 1993; and

(B) provides satisfactory documentation that the vessel was chartered at least once within the previous 12 months prior to the date of enactment of that Act; and

(5) establish different structural fire protection, manning, operating, and equipment requirements for former public vessels of the United States of at least 100 gross tons but less than 500 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title, carrying not more than 150 passengers on domestic voyages, if the owner of the vessel—
(A) makes application for inspection to the Coast Guard within 6 months of the date of enactment of the Passenger Vessel Safety Act of 1993; and

(B) provides satisfactory documentation that the vessel was chartered at least once within the previous 12 months prior to the date of enactment of that Act.


**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES**

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Section 2113 provides the Secretary with the authority to exempt certain vessels from the inspection and manning requirements of law when vessels are engaged in excursions or oceanographic research. This is the authority of the issuance of excursion permits when special circumstances justify the waiver of certain maritime safety and seamen’s welfare laws for a short period of time. It also contains flexible exemption authority for regulation of oceanographic research vessels.

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The date of enactment of the Passenger Vessel Safety Act of 1993, referred to in pars. (4) and (5), is the date of the enactment of Pub. L. 103–206, which was approved within the previous 12 months prior to the date of enactment of that Act.


**AMENDMENTS**

1996—Par. (4). Pub. L. 104–324, §710(1), inserted “as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title” after “less than 300 gross tons”.

Par. (5). Pub. L. 104–324, §710(2), inserted “as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title” after “less than 500 gross tons”.

1993—Pub. L. 103–206 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “If the Secretary decides that the application of a provision of part B or F of this subtitle is not necessary in performing the mission of a vessel engaged in excursions or an oceanographic research vessel, the Secretary by regulation may—

(1) for an excursion vessel, issue a special permit specifying the conditions of operation and equipment; and

(2) exempt the oceanographic research vessel from that provision under conditions the Secretary may specify.”

**SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS**

This section is referred to in section 2306 of this title.

**§ 2114. Protection of seamen against discrimination**

(a) An owner, charterer, managing operator, agent, master, or individual in charge of a vessel may not discharge or in any manner discriminate against a seaman because the seaman in good faith has reported or is about to report to the Coast Guard that the seaman believes that a violation of this subtitle, or a regulation issued under this subtitle, has occurred.

(b) A seaman discharged or otherwise discriminated against in violation of this section may bring an action in an appropriate district court of the United States. In that action, the court may order any appropriate relief, including—

(1) restraining violations of this section; and

(2) reinstatement to the seaman’s former position with back pay.


**§ 2115. Civil penalty to enforce alcohol and dangerous drug testing**

Any person who fails to implement or conduct, or who otherwise fails to comply with the requirements prescribed by the Secretary for chemical testing for dangerous drugs or for evidence of alcohol use, as prescribed under this subtitle or a regulation prescribed by the Secretary to carry out the provisions of this subtitle, is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than $5,000 for each violation. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation.


**AMENDMENTS**

1998—Pub. L. 105–383 substituted “$5,000” for “$1,000”.

**CHAPTER 23—OPERATION OF VESSELS GENERALLY**

**Sec. 2301. Application.**

2302. Penalties for negligent operations and interfering with safe operation.

2303. Duties related to marine casualty assistance and information.

2303a. Post serious marine casualty alcohol testing.

2304. Duty to provide assistance at sea.

2305. Injunctions.

2306. Vessel reporting requirements.

**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES**

Chapter 23 lists requirements that relate to the general operation of all vessels. These include penalties and injunctive relief for negligent operation of a vessel. It also provides penalties for failure to render assistance.

**AMENDMENTS**


**§ 2301. Application.**

Except as provided in section 2306 of this title, this chapter applies to a vessel operated on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States (including the territorial sea of the United States as described in Presidential Proclamation No. 5928 of December 27, 1988) and, for a vessel owned in the United States, on the high seas.

violation of an international safety convention to which the United States is a party, and the Secretary has published notice of that detention and determination in an electronic form, including the name of the owner of the vessel; or

(b) the operator of the vessel has on more than one occasion had a vessel detained and determined to be substandard by the Secretary for violation of an international safety convention to which the United States is a party, and the Secretary has published notice of that detention and determination in an electronic form, including the name of the owner of the vessel.

(2) The prohibition in paragraph (1) expires for a vessel on the earlier of

(A) 1 year after the date of the publication in electronic form on which the prohibition is based; or

(B) any date on which the owner or operator of the vessel prevails in an appeal of the violation of the relevant international convention on which the detention is based.

(3) As used in this subsection, the term “Government-impelled cargo” means cargo for which a Federal agency contracts directly for shipping by water or for which (or the freight of which) a Federal agency provides financing, including financing by grant, loan, or loan guarantee, resulting in shipment of the cargo by water.

\section*{2302. Penalties for negligent operations and interfering with safe operation}

(a) A person operating a vessel in a negligent manner or interfering with the safe operation of a vessel, so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of a person is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than $1,000.

(b) A person operating a vessel in a grossly negligent manner that endangers the life, limb, or property of a person commits a class A misdemeanor.

(c) An individual who is under the influence of alcohol, or a dangerous drug in violation of a law of the United States when operating a vessel, as determined under standards prescribed by the Secretary by regulation—

(1) is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than $5,000; or

(2) commits a class A misdemeanor.

(d) For a penalty imposed under this section, the vessel also is liable in rem unless the vessel is—

(1) owned by a State or a political subdivision of a State;

(2) operated principally for governmental purposes; and

(3) identified clearly as a vessel of that State or subdivision.

(e)(1) A vessel may not transport Government-impelled cargoes if—

(A) the vessel has been detained and determined to be substandard by the Secretary for

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2302(b) & 46:1484(d) \\
2302(c) & 46:1483 \\
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Subsec. (c)(1), Pub. L. 105–383, § 304(c), substituted ‘‘$5,000; or’’ for ‘‘$1,000 for a first violation and not more than $5,000 for a subsequent violation; or’’. Subsec. (e), Pub. L. 105–383, § 408(a), added subsec. (e), 1992—Subsec. (c)(1), Pub. L. 109–287 substituted ‘‘$1,000 for a first violation and not more than $5,000 for a subsequent violation’’ for ‘‘$1,000’’. 1990—Subsec. (b), Pub. L. 101–380, § 4302(a)(1), substituted ‘‘commits a class A misdemeanor’’ for ‘‘shall be fined not more than $5,000, imprisoned for not more than one year, or both’’. Subsec. (c)(1), Pub. L. 101–380, § 4105(b)(2), 4302(a)(2)(A), substituted ‘‘under the influence of alcohol, or a dangerous drug in violation of a law of the United States’’ for ‘‘intoxicated’’ and struck out ‘‘, shall be’’ after ‘‘by regulation’’. Subsec. (c)(1), Pub. L. 101–380, § 4302(a)(2)(B), substituted ‘‘is liable’’ for ‘‘liable’’. 1984—Subsecs. (c), (d), Pub. L. 98–557 added subsec. (c) and redesignated former subsec. (c) as (d).

Effective Date of 1998 Amendment
Pub. L. 105–383, title IV, § 408(b), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3431, provided that: ‘‘The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] takes effect January 1, 1999.’’

Effective Date of 1990 Amendment
Amendment by Pub. L. 101–380 applicable to incidents occurring after Aug. 18, 1990, see section 1029 of Pub. L. 101–380, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2701 of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters.

§ 2303. Duties related to marine casualty assistance and information
(a) The master or individual in charge of a vessel involved in a marine casualty shall—
(1) render necessary assistance to each individual affected to save that affected individual from danger caused by the marine casualty, so far as the master or individual in charge can do so without serious danger to the master’s or individual’s vessel or to individuals on board; and
(2) give the master’s or individual’s name and address and identification of the vessel to the master or individual in charge of any other vessel involved in the casualty, to any individual injured, and to the owner of any property damaged.

(b) An individual violating this section or a regulation prescribed under this section shall be fined not more than $1,000, or imprisoned for not more than 2 years. The vessel also is liable in rem to the United States Government for the fine.

(c) An individual complying with subsection (a) of this section or gratuitously and in good faith rendering assistance at the scene of a marine casualty without objection by an individual assisted, is not liable for damages as a result of rendering assistance or for an act or omission in providing or arranging salvage, towage, medical treatment, or other assistance when the individual acts as an ordinary, reasonable, and prudent individual would have acted under the circumstances.


Historical and Revision Notes

Revised section Source section (U.S. Code)
2303(a) 33:367
2303(b) 46:1465(a)
2303(c) 46:1465(b)

Section 2303 requires a master or anyone in charge of a vessel to provide assistance and render aid to those involved in a marine casualty and to exchange information in a manner similar to automobile accident cases. It also includes a ‘‘Good Samaritan’’ clause that exonerates anyone from liability when rendering assistance in an ordinary, reasonable, or prudent manner.

§ 2303a. Post serious marine casualty alcohol testing
(a) The Secretary shall establish procedures to ensure that after a serious marine casualty occurs, alcohol testing of crew members or other persons responsible for the operation or other safety-sensitive functions of the vessel or vessels involved in such casualty is conducted no later than 2 hours after the casualty occurs, unless such testing cannot be completed within that time due to safety concerns directly related to the casualty.

(b) The procedures in subsection (a) shall require that if alcohol testing cannot be completed within 2 hours of the occurrence of the casualty, such testing shall be conducted as soon thereafter as the safety concerns in subsection (a) have been adequately addressed to permit such testing, except that such testing may not be required more than 8 hours after the casualty occurs.


§ 2304. Duty to provide assistance at sea
(a) A master or individual in charge of a vessel shall render assistance to any individual found at sea in danger of being lost, so far as the master or individual in charge can do so without serious danger to the master’s or individual’s vessel or individuals on board.

(b) A master or individual violating this section shall be fined not more than $1,000, imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or both.


Historical and Revision Notes

Revised section Source section (U.S. Code)
2304 46:728

Section 2304 requires a master or individual in charge of a vessel to render assistance to those in danger at sea if able to do so without seriously endangering the vessel or crew.

Section Referred To in Other Sections
This section is referred to in section 3294 of this title; section 731 of Appendix to this title.

§ 2305. Injunctions
(a) The district courts of the United States have jurisdiction to enjoin the negligent operation of vessels prohibited by this chapter on the petition of the Attorney General for the United States Government.
(b) When practicable, the Secretary shall—
(1) give notice to any person against whom an action for injunctive relief is considered under this section an opportunity to present that person's views; and
(2) except for a knowing and willful violation, give the person a reasonable opportunity to achieve compliance.

(c) The failure to give notice and opportunity to present views under subsection (b) of this section does not preclude the court from granting appropriate relief.


HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES


§ 3101. Authority to suspend inspection

When the President decides that the needs of foreign commerce require, the President may suspend a provision of this part for a foreign-built vessel registered as a vessel of the United States on conditions the President may specify.