

(2) After notice and an opportunity for a hearing, a person found by the Administrator to have violated section 2403 or 2404 of this title is liable to the United States Government for the civil penalty assessed under subsection (a) of this section. The amount of the civil penalty shall be assessed by the Administrator by written notice. In determining the amount of the penalty, the Administrator 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.

(3) The Administrator may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without consideration, a civil penalty assessed under this section until the assessment is referred to the Attorney General.

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

#### (b) Criminal penalties

Any person knowingly violating section 2403 or 2404 of this title shall be fined not more than \$25,000, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

(Pub. L. 100-333, §10, June 16, 1988, 102 Stat. 608.)

#### § 2410. Other authorities; State laws

##### (a) Other authorities of Administrator

Nothing in this chapter shall limit or prevent the Administrator from establishing a lower permissible release rate for organotin under authorities other than this chapter.

##### (b) State laws

Nothing in this chapter shall preclude or deny any State or political subdivision thereof the right to adopt or enforce any requirement regarding antifouling paint or any other substance containing organotin. Compliance with the requirements of any State or political subdivision thereof respecting antifouling paint or any other substance containing organotin shall not relieve any person of the obligation to comply with the provisions of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 100-333, §11, June 16, 1988, 102 Stat. 608.)

### CHAPTER 38—DUMPING OF MEDICAL WASTE BY PUBLIC VESSELS

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#### § 2501. Findings

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The washing ashore of potentially infectious medical wastes from public vessels of the United States may pose serious and widespread risks to public health and to the welfare of coastal communities.

(2) Current Federal law provides inadequate protections against the disposal of such wastes from such vessels into ocean waters.

(3) Operators of such vessels must take immediate action to stop disposing of such wastes into ocean waters.

(Pub. L. 100-688, title III, §3102, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4152.)

#### SHORT TITLE

Section 3101 of subtitle A [§§3101-3105] of title III of Pub. L. 100-688 provided that: "This subtitle [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'United States Public Vessel Medical Waste Anti-Dumping Act of 1988'."

#### § 2502. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter:

##### (1) Potentially infectious medical waste

The term "potentially infectious medical waste" includes isolation wastes; infectious agents; human blood and blood products; pathological wastes; sharps; body parts; contaminated bedding; surgical wastes; and other disposable medical equipment and material that may pose a risk to the public health, welfare or the marine environment.

##### (2) Public vessel

The term "public vessel" means a vessel of any type whatsoever (including hydrofoils, air-cushion vehicles, submersibles, floating craft whether propelled or not, and fixed or floating platforms) that is owned, or demise chartered, and operated by the United States Government, and is not engaged in commercial service.

(Pub. L. 100-688, title III, §3103, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4152.)

#### § 2503. Prohibition

After 6 months after November 18, 1988, no public vessel shall dispose of potentially infectious medical waste into ocean waters unless—

(1)(A) the health or safety of individuals on board the vessel is threatened; or

(B) during time of war or a declared national emergency;

(2) the waste is disposed of beyond 50 nautical miles from the nearest land; and

(3)(A) in the case of a public vessel which is not a submersible, the waste is sterilized, properly packaged, and sufficiently weighted to prevent the waste from coming ashore after disposal; and

(B) in the case of a public vessel which is a submersible, the waste is properly packaged and sufficiently weighted to prevent the waste from coming ashore after disposal.

(Pub. L. 100-688, title III, §3104, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4152.)

#### § 2504. Guidance

Not later than 3 months after November 18, 1988, the Secretary of Defense and the head of each affected agency, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall each issue guidance for public vessels under the jurisdiction of their agency regarding implementation of section 2503 of this title.

(Pub. L. 100-688, title III, §3105, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4153.)