

troductory provisions of par. (3)(C) and “Secretary shall allocate” for “Secretary of Transportation shall allocate” in introductory provisions of par. (4).

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 109-59, § 7126, substituted “Secretary” for “Secretary of Transportation” in subsec. (c) and “Secretary.” for “Secretary of Transportation.” in subsec. (d).

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 109-59, § 7114(b), substituted “National Response Team” for “national response team”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 109-59, § 7126, substituted “Secretary” for “Secretary of Transportation” in introductory provisions.

Pub. L. 109-59, § 7114(c), substituted “Federal financial assistance” for “Government grant programs” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 109-59, § 7114(d)(1), (2), in introductory provisions, inserted “(to be known as the ‘Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Fund’)” after “an account in the Treasury” and struck out “collects under section 5108(g)(2)(A) of this title and” before “transfers to the Secretary”, added par. (3), and redesignated former par. (3) as (4) and substituted “2 percent” for “10 percent”.

Subsec. (k). Pub. L. 109-59, § 7114(e), substituted “The Secretary shall submit annually to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and make available to the public information on the allocation and uses of the planning grants allocated under subsection (a), training grants under subsection (b), and grants under subsection (j) of this section and under section 5107” for “Not later than September 30, 1997, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the allocation and uses of training grants authorized under subsection (b) for fiscal year 1993 through fiscal year 1996 and grants authorized under subsection (j) and section 5107 for fiscal years 1995 and 1996” and “The report” for “Such report”.

1996—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 104-287, § 6(b), made technical correction to directory language of Pub. L. 103-311, § 105(b)(2). See 1994 Amendment note below.

Subsec. (j)(4)(A). Pub. L. 104-287, § 5(8), substituted “section 5115 of this title” for “subsection (g)”.

1994—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 103-311, § 105(a), in introductory provisions inserted “and Indian tribes” after “States”, and in subpar. (A) substituted “on lands under the jurisdiction of a State or Indian tribe, and between lands under the jurisdiction of a State or Indian tribe and lands of another State or Indian tribe” for “in a State and between States”.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 103-311, § 105(b)(2), as amended by Pub. L. 104-287, § 6(b), struck out “the State” after “only if” in introductory provisions.

Pub. L. 103-311, § 105(b)(1), inserted “or Indian tribe” after “grant to a State” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (a)(2)(A). Pub. L. 103-311, § 105(b)(1), (3), inserted “the State or Indian tribe” before “certifies” and “or Indian tribe” before “expends”.

Subsec. (a)(2)(B). Pub. L. 103-311, § 105(b)(4), inserted “the State” before “agrees”.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 103-311, § 105(c), added par. (3).

Subsec. (i)(1). Pub. L. 103-311, § 119(d)(2), as amended by Pub. L. 103-429, struck out “and section 5107(e) of this title” after “under this section”.

Subsec. (i)(3). Pub. L. 103-311, § 119(d)(3), as amended by Pub. L. 103-429, substituted “5108(g)(2)” for “5107(e), 5108(g)(2)”.

Subsecs. (j), (k). Pub. L. 103-311, § 119(a), added subsecs. (j) and (k).

#### CHANGE OF NAME

“Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency”, “Administrators, and Director”, and “Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences” substituted for “Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency”, “Administrator, and Directors”, and “Directors of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and National In-

stitute of Environmental Health Sciences”, respectively, in subsecs. (f) to (h), on authority of section 612(c) of Pub. L. 109-295, set out as a note under section 313 of Title 6, Domestic Security. Any reference to the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in title VI of Pub. L. 109-295 or an amendment by title VI to be considered to refer and apply to the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency until Mar. 31, 2007, see section 612(f)(2) of Pub. L. 109-295, set out as a note under section 313 of Title 6.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Section 6(b) of Pub. L. 104-287 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective Aug. 26, 1994.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Section 7(c) of Pub. L. 103-429 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective Aug. 26, 1994.

### § 5117. Special permits and exclusions

(a) **AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SPECIAL PERMITS.**—(1) As provided under procedures prescribed by regulation, the Secretary may issue, modify, or terminate a special permit authorizing a variance from this chapter or a regulation prescribed under section 5103(b), 5104, 5110, or 5112 of this title to a person performing a function regulated by the Secretary under section 5103(b)(1) in a way that achieves a safety level—

(A) at least equal to the safety level required under this chapter; or

(B) consistent with the public interest and this chapter, if a required safety level does not exist.

(2) A special permit issued under this section shall be effective for an initial period of not more than 2 years and may be renewed by the Secretary upon application for successive periods of not more than 4 years each or, in the case of a special permit relating to section 5112, for an additional period of not more than 2 years.

(b) **APPLICATIONS.**—When applying for a special permit or renewal of a special permit under this section, the person must provide a safety analysis prescribed by the Secretary that justifies the special permit. The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice that an application for a special permit has been filed and shall give the public an opportunity to inspect the safety analysis and comment on the application. This subsection does not require the release of information protected by law from public disclosure.

(c) **APPLICATIONS TO BE DEALT WITH PROMPTLY.**—The Secretary shall issue or renew the special permit for which an application was filed or deny such issuance or renewal within 180 days after the first day of the month following the date of the filing of such application, or the Secretary shall publish a statement in the Federal Register of the reason why the Secretary’s decision on the special permit is delayed, along with an estimate of the additional time necessary before the decision is made.

(d) **EXCLUSIONS.**—(1) The Secretary shall exclude, in any part, from this chapter and regulations prescribed under this chapter—

(A) a public vessel (as defined in section 2101 of title 46);

(B) a vessel exempted under section 3702 of title 46 from chapter 37 of title 46; and

(C) a vessel to the extent it is regulated under the Ports and Waterways Safety Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.).

(2) This chapter and regulations prescribed under this chapter do not prohibit—

(A) or regulate transportation of a firearm (as defined in section 232 of title 18), or ammunition for a firearm, by an individual for personal use; or

(B) transportation of a firearm or ammunition in commerce.

(e) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—Unless the Secretary decides that an emergency exists, a special permit or renewal granted under this section is the only way a person subject to this chapter may be granted a variance from this chapter.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(d), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 776; Pub. L. 103-311, title I, §120(a), Aug. 26, 1994, 108 Stat. 1680; Pub. L. 109-59, title VII, §§7115(a)(1), (b)–(g), 7126, Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1901, 1909.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
5117(a) .....	49 App.:1806(a) (1st, 2d sentences).	Jan. 3, 1975, Pub. L. 93-633, §107, 88 Stat. 2158; Nov. 16, 1990, Pub. L. 101-615, §9, 104 Stat. 3259.
5117(b) .....	49 App.:1806(a) (3d-last sentences).	
5117(c)(1) .....	49 App.:1806(b).	
5117(c)(2) .....	49 App.:1806(c).	
5117(d) .....	49 App.:1806(d).	

In subsection (a)(1), before clause (A), the words “or renew” and “subject to the requirements of this chapter” are omitted as surplus. In clause (A), the words “at least equal to the safety level required under this chapter” are substituted for “which is equal to or exceeds that level of safety which would be required in the absence of such exemption” to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (a)(2), the words “issued or renewed” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), the words “upon application” and “grant of such” are omitted as surplus. The words “give the public an opportunity to inspect” are substituted for “afford access to . . . public” for clarity. The words “described by subsection (b) of section 552 of title 5, or which is otherwise” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(1), clauses (A) and (B) are substituted for “any vessel which is excepted from the application of section 201 of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act of 1972 by paragraph (2) of such section”. Section 201 of that Act amended section 4417a of the Revised Statutes (classified at 46:391a prior to its repeal and reenactment as part of the codification of subtitle II of title 46 in 1983). Clauses (A) and (B) restate the exceptions provided by section 201 of that Act and by section 4417a of the Revised Statutes as subsequently amended. Clause (C) is substituted for “any other vessel regulated under such Act, to the extent of such regulation” because of the restatement.

In subsection (c)(2), before clause (A), the word “prescribed” is substituted for “issued” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code.

In subsection (d), the words “by which”, “the requirements of”, and “or relieved of the obligation to meet any requirements imposed under” are omitted as surplus.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Ports and Waterways Safety Act of 1972, referred to in subsec. (d)(1)(C), is Pub. L. 92-340, July 10, 1972, 86

Stat. 424, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 25 (§1221 et seq.) of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1221 of Title 33 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-59, §7115(a)(1), substituted “Special permits and exclusions” for “Exemptions and exclusions” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-59, §7115(b), substituted “Issue Special Permits” for “Exempt” in heading.

Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 109-59, §7126, substituted “Secretary” for “Secretary of Transportation” in introductory provisions.

Pub. L. 109-59, §7115(c), in introductory provisions, substituted “issue, modify, or terminate a special permit authorizing a variance” for “issue an exemption” and “performing a function regulated by the Secretary under section 5103(b)(1)” for “transporting, or causing to be transported, hazardous material”.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 109-59, §7115(d), amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (2) read as follows: “An exemption under this subsection is effective for not more than 2 years and may be renewed on application to the Secretary.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-59, §7115(e), substituted “the special permit” for “the exemption” and substituted “a special permit” for “an exemption” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-59, §7115(f), substituted “the special permit” for “the exemption” in two places.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 109-59, §7115(g), substituted “a special permit” for “an exemption” and “be granted a variance” for “be exempt”.

1994—Subsecs. (c) to (e). Pub. L. 103-311 added subsec. (c) and redesignated former subsecs. (c) and (d) as (d) and (e), respectively.

**[§ 5118. Repealed. Pub. L. 109-59, title VII, § 7115(h), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1901]**

Section, Pub. L. 103-272, §1(d), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 777; Pub. L. 108-426, §2(c)(2), Nov. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 2424, related to employment of additional hazardous material safety inspectors.

**§ 5119. Uniform forms and procedures**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP.—The Secretary shall establish a working group of State and local government officials, including representatives of the National Governors’ Association, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the United States Conference of Mayors, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the Alliance for Uniform Hazmat Transportation Procedures.

(b) PURPOSE OF WORKING GROUP.—The purpose of the working group shall be to develop uniform forms and procedures for a State to register, and to issue permits to, persons that transport, or cause to be transported, hazardous material by motor vehicle in the State.

(c) LIMITATION ON WORKING GROUP.—The working group may not propose to define or limit the amount of a fee a State may impose or collect.

(d) PROCEDURE.—The Secretary shall develop a procedure for the working group to employ in developing recommendations for the Secretary to harmonize existing State registration and permit laws and regulations relating to the transportation of hazardous materials, with special attention paid to each State’s unique safety concerns and interest in maintaining strong hazmat safety standards.

(e) REPORT OF WORKING GROUP.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of