

court, for violation of any law respecting the revenue, may, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, if he deems it necessary to protect the revenue of the United States, be destroyed in lieu of the sale thereof under existing law.

(Aug. 5, 1935, ch. 438, title I, § 5, 49 Stat. 519.)

**§ 1706. Importation in vessels under thirty tons and aircraft; licenses; labels as prima facie evidence of foreign origin of merchandise**

Except into the districts adjoining to the Dominion of Canada, or into the districts adjacent to Mexico, no merchandise of foreign growth or manufacture subject to the payment of duties shall be brought into the United States from any foreign port or place, or from any hovering vessel, in any vessel of less than thirty net tons burden without special license granted by the Secretary of the Treasury under such conditions as he may prescribe, nor in any other manner than by sea, except by aircraft duly licensed in accordance with law, or landed or unladen at any other port than is directed by law, under the penalty of seizure and forfeiture of all such unlicensed vessels or aircraft and of the merchandise imported therein, landed or unladen in any manner. Marks, labels, brands, or stamps, indicative of foreign origin, upon or accompanying merchandise or containers of merchandise found upon any such vessel or aircraft, shall be prima facie evidence of the foreign origin of such merchandise.

(Aug. 5, 1935, ch. 438, title I, § 6, 49 Stat. 519.)

**§ 1706a. Civil penalties for trading without required certificate of documentation**

Whenever a vessel, entitled to be documented and not so documented, is employed in a trade for which certificates of documentation are issued under the vessel documentation laws, other than a trade covered by a registry, the vessel is liable to a civil penalty of \$500 for each port at which it arrives without the proper certificate of documentation, and if it has on board any merchandise of foreign growth or manufacture (sea stores excepted), or any taxable domestic spirits, wines, or other alcoholic liquors, on which the duties or taxes have not been paid or secured to be paid, the vessel, together with its equipment and cargo, is liable to seizure and forfeiture. Marks, labels, brands, or stamps, indicative of foreign origin, upon or accompanying merchandise or containers of merchandise found on board such vessel, shall be prima facie evidence of the foreign origin of such merchandise.

(June 19, 1886, ch. 421, § 7, 24 Stat. 81; Aug. 5, 1935, ch. 438, title III, § 314, 49 Stat. 529; Pub. L. 96-594, title I, § 126(e), Dec. 24, 1980, 94 Stat. 3459.)

**CODIFICATION**

Section was not enacted as part of act Aug. 5, 1935, ch. 438, which comprises this chapter.

Section was classified to section 319 of the former Appendix to Title 46, Shipping, prior to the completion of the enactment of Title 46 by Pub. L. 109-304, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1485.

**AMENDMENTS**

1980—Pub. L. 96-594 substituted provisions relating to violations and penalties for employment in a trade of a

vessel entitled to be documented but not so documented for provisions relating to fines and penalties for trading without a license by a vessel twenty tons or upward, and struck out provisions respecting expiration of a license while a vessel is at sea.

1935—Act Aug. 5, 1935, provided for forfeiture, to deem marks, etc., prima facie evidence of foreign origin of merchandise, and to substitute “said fine or forfeiture” for “said fine of \$30” in last sentence.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT**

Pub. L. 96-594, title I, § 128, Dec. 24, 1980, 94 Stat. 3461, provided in part that the amendment made by Pub. L. 96-594 is effective on first day of eighteenth month following December 1980.

**§ 1707. Repealed. Pub. L. 104-295, § 3(a)(2), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3515**

Section, act Aug. 5, 1935, ch. 438, title I, § 7, 49 Stat. 520, required certificate for importation of alcoholic liquors in small vessels, provided for issuance of bond where liquor was destined for foreign port, and authorized penalties for failure to carry certificate unless lost, mislaid without fraud, defaced by accident, or incorrect by reason of clerical error or other mistake.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL**

Repeal of section applicable as of Dec. 8, 1993, see section 3(b) of Pub. L. 104-295, set out as an Effective Date of 1996 Amendment note under section 1321 of this title.

**§ 1708. Repealed. Pub. L. 106-36, title I, § 1001(b)(6), June 25, 1999, 113 Stat. 132**

Section, act Aug. 5, 1935, ch. 438, title I, § 8, 49 Stat. 520, related to lading vessel in foreign port with liquor for importation.

**§ 1709. Definitions**

When used in this Act:

(a) The term “United States”, when used in a geographical sense, includes all Territories and possessions of the United States, except the Virgin Islands, the Canal Zone, American Samoa, Wake Island, Midway Islands, Kingman Reef, Johnston Island, and the island of Guam.

(b) The term “officer of the customs” means any officer of the Customs Service or any commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the Coast Guard, or agent or other person authorized by law or by the Secretary of the Treasury, or appointed in writing by a collector, to perform the duties of an officer of the Customs Service.

(c) The term “customs waters” means, in the case of a foreign vessel subject to a treaty or other arrangement between a foreign government and the United States enabling or permitting the authorities of the United States to board, examine, search, seize, or otherwise to enforce upon such vessel upon the high seas the laws of the United States, the waters within such distance of the coast of the United States as the said authorities are or may be so enabled or permitted by such treaty or arrangement and, in the case of every other vessel, the waters within four leagues of the coast of the United States.

(d) The term “hovering vessel” means any vessel which is found or kept off the coast of the United States within or without the customs waters, if, from the history, conduct, character, or location of the vessel, it is reasonable to believe that such vessel is being used or may be used to introduce or promote or facilitate the