

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

§ 674. Small boat station rescue capability

The Secretary shall ensure that each Coast Guard small boat station (including a seasonally operated station) maintains, within the area of responsibility for the station, at least 1 vessel that is fully capable of performing offshore rescue operations, taking into consideration prevailing weather, marine conditions, and depositional geologic features such as sand bars.

(Added Pub. L. 104-324, title III, §309(a), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3919, §673; renumbered §674, Pub. L. 107-295, title IV, §405(a)(1), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2115; amended Pub. L. 107-296, title XVII, §1704(a), (f)(1), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2314, 2316; Pub. L. 112-213, title II, §217(12), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1558.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 674 was renumbered section 675 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2012—Pub. L. 112-213 struck out “of Homeland Security” after “Secretary”.

2002—Pub. L. 107-296, §1704(f)(1), which directed renumbering of the section 673 of this title that was added by Pub. L. 104-324, §309(a), as section 673a of this title, could not be executed because of the prior amendment by Pub. L. 107-295, see below.

Pub. L. 107-296, §1704(a), which directed amendment of section 673a of this title by substituting “of Homeland Security” for “of Transportation”, was executed by making the substitution in this section, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Pub. L. 107-295 renumbered section 673 of this title, relating to small boat station rescue capability, as this section.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 1704(a) of Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

Amendment by section 1704(f)(1) of Pub. L. 107-296 effective 60 days after Nov. 25, 2002, see section 4 of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as an Effective Date note under section 101 of Title 6, Domestic Security.

§ 675. Small boat station closures

(a) CLOSURES.—The Secretary may not close a Coast Guard multimission small boat station or subunit unless the Secretary—

(1) determines that—

(A) remaining search and rescue capabilities maintain the safety of the maritime public in the area of the station or subunit;

(B) regional or local prevailing weather and marine conditions, including water temperature or unusual tide and current conditions, do not require continued operation of the station or subunit; and

(C) Coast Guard search and rescue standards related to search and rescue response times are met; and

(2) provides an opportunity for public comment and for public meetings in the area of

the station or subunit with regard to the decision to close the station or subunit.

(b) OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY.—The Secretary may implement any management efficiencies within the small boat station system, such as modifying the operational posture of units or re-allocating resources as necessary to ensure the safety of the maritime public nationwide. No stations or subunits may be closed under this subsection except in accordance with subsection (a).

(Added Pub. L. 104-324, title III, §309(a), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3919, §674; renumbered §675, Pub. L. 107-295, title IV, §405(a)(1), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2115; amended Pub. L. 107-296, title XVII, §1704(a), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2314; Pub. L. 112-213, title II, §217(13), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1558.)

AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 112-213 substituted “Secretary may not” for “Secretary of Homeland Security may not” in introductory provisions.

2002—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-296, which directed amendment of section 674 of this title by substituting “of Homeland Security” for “of Transportation” in introductory provisions, was executed to this section, to reflect the probable intent of Congress and the renumbering of section 674 of this title as this section by Pub. L. 107-295, see below.

Pub. L. 107-295 renumbered section 674 of this title as this section.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

§ 676. Search and rescue center standards

(a) The Secretary shall establish, implement, and maintain the minimum standards necessary for the safe operation of all Coast Guard search and rescue center facilities, including with respect to the following:

(1) The lighting, acoustics, and temperature in the facilities.

(2) The number of individuals on a shift in the facility assigned search and rescue responsibilities (including communications), which may be adjusted based on seasonal workload.

(3) The length of time an individual may serve on watch to minimize fatigue, based on the best scientific information available.

(4) The scheduling of individuals having search and rescue responsibilities to minimize fatigue of the individual when on duty in the facility.

(5) The workload of each individual engaged in search and rescue responsibilities in the facility.

(6) Stress management for the individuals assigned search and rescue responsibilities in the facilities.

(7) The design of equipment and facilities to minimize fatigue and enhance search and rescue operations.

(8) The acquisition and maintenance of interim search and rescue command center communications equipment.

(9) Any other requirements that the Secretary believes will increase the safe operation of the search and rescue centers.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Secretary should establish, implement, and maintain minimum standards necessary to ensure that an individual on duty or watch in a Coast Guard search and rescue command center facility does not work more than 12 hours in a 24-hour period, except in an emergency or unforeseen circumstances.

(c) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this section, the term “search and rescue center facility” means a Coast Guard shore facility that maintains a search and rescue mission coordination and communications watch.

(Added Pub. L. 107-295, title IV, §405(a)(2), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2115; amended Pub. L. 111-207, §4(a)(3), July 27, 2010, 124 Stat. 2251.)

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 111-207 struck out subsec. (d). Text read as follows: “The Secretary shall provide a quarterly written report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, describing the status of implementation of the standards described in subsection (b), including a list of the facilities at which such standards have or have not been implemented.”

PRESCRIPTION OF STANDARDS

Pub. L. 107-295, title IV, §405(b), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2116, provided that: “The Secretary shall prescribe the standards required under section 675(a) [676(a)] of title 14, United States Code, as enacted by subsection (a) of this section, before January 1, 2003.”

§ 677. Turnkey selection procedures

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE.—The Secretary may use one-step turnkey selection procedures for the purpose of entering into contracts for construction projects.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) The term “one-step turnkey selection procedures” means procedures used for the selection of a contractor on the basis of price and other evaluation criteria to perform, in accordance with the provisions of a firm fixed-price contract, both the design and construction of a facility using performance specifications supplied by the Secretary.

(2) The term “construction” includes the construction, procurement, development, conversion, or extension of any facility.

(3) The term “facility” means a building, structure, or other improvement to real property.

(Added Pub. L. 109-241, title II, §205(a), July 11, 2006, 120 Stat. 521.)

§ 678. Aircraft accident investigations

(a) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the Commandant of the Coast Guard conducts an accident investigation of an accident involving an aircraft under the jurisdiction of the Commandant, the records and report of the investigation shall be treated in accordance with this section.

(b) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Commandant, upon request, shall publicly disclose unclassified tapes, scientific reports,

and other factual information pertinent to an aircraft accident investigation.

(2) CONDITIONS.—The Commandant shall only disclose information requested pursuant to paragraph (1) if the Commandant determines—

(A) that such tapes, reports, or other information would be included within and releasable with the final accident investigation report; and

(B) that release of such tapes, reports, or other information—

(i) would not undermine the ability of accident or safety investigators to continue to conduct the investigation; and

(ii) would not compromise national security.

(3) RESTRICTION.—A disclosure under paragraph (1) may not be made by or through officials with responsibility for, or who are conducting, a safety investigation with respect to the accident.

(c) OPINIONS REGARDING CAUSATION OF ACCIDENT.—Following an aircraft accident referred to in subsection (a)—

(1) if the evidence surrounding the accident is sufficient for the investigators who conduct the accident investigation to come to an opinion as to the cause or causes of the accident, the final report of the accident investigation shall set forth the opinion of the investigators as to the cause or causes of the accident; and

(2) if the evidence surrounding the accident is not sufficient for the investigators to come to an opinion as to the cause or causes of the accident, the final report of the accident investigation shall include a description of those factors, if any, that, in the opinion of the investigators, substantially contributed to or caused the accident.

(d) USE OF INFORMATION IN CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.—For purposes of any civil or criminal proceeding arising from an aircraft accident referred to in subsection (a), any opinion of the accident investigators as to the cause of, or the factors contributing to, the accident set forth in the accident investigation report may not be considered as evidence in such proceeding, nor may such report be considered an admission of liability by the United States or by any person referred to in such report.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) the term “accident investigation” means any form of investigation by Coast Guard personnel of an aircraft accident referred to in subsection (a), other than a safety investigation; and

(2) the term “safety investigation” means an investigation by Coast Guard personnel of an aircraft accident referred to in subsection (a) that is conducted solely to determine the cause of the accident and to obtain information that may prevent the occurrence of similar accidents.

(Added Pub. L. 112-213, title II, §214(a), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1553.)

CHAPTER 18—COAST GUARD HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Sec.
680. Definitions.