

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the functions of the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see former section 313(1) and sections 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

§ 2233. Removal of civil liability barriers that discourage the donation of fire equipment to volunteer fire companies

(a) Liability protection

A person who donates qualified fire control or rescue equipment to a volunteer fire company shall not be liable for civil damages under any State or Federal law for personal injuries, property damage or loss, or death caused by the equipment after the donation.

(b) Exceptions

Subsection (a) does not apply to a person if—

- (1) the person's act or omission causing the injury, damage, loss, or death constitutes gross negligence or intentional misconduct;
- (2) the person is the manufacturer of the qualified fire control or rescue equipment; or
- (3) the person or agency modified or altered the equipment after it had been recertified by an authorized technician as meeting the manufacturer's specifications.

(c) Preemption

This section preempts the laws of any State to the extent that such laws are inconsistent with this section, except that notwithstanding subsection (b) this section shall not preempt any State law that provides additional protection from liability for a person who donates fire control or fire rescue equipment to a volunteer fire company.

(d) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Person

The term “person” includes any governmental or other entity.

(2) Fire control or rescue equipment

The term “fire control or fire rescue equipment” includes any fire vehicle, fire fighting tool, communications equipment, protective gear, fire hose, or breathing apparatus.

(3) Qualified fire control or rescue equipment

The term “qualified fire control or rescue equipment” means fire control or fire rescue equipment that has been recertified by an authorized technician as meeting the manufacturer's specifications.

(4) State

The term “State” includes the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, any other territory or possession of the United States, and any political subdivision of any such State, territory, or possession.

(5) Volunteer fire company

The term “volunteer fire company” means an association of individuals who provide fire

protection and other emergency services, where at least 30 percent of the individuals receive little or no compensation compared with an entry level full-time paid individual in that association or in the nearest such association with an entry level full-time paid individual.

(6) Authorized technician

The term “authorized technician” means a technician who has been certified by the manufacturer of fire control or fire rescue equipment to inspect such equipment. The technician need not be employed by the State or local agency administering the distribution of the fire control or fire rescue equipment.

(e) Effective date

This section applies only to liability for injury, damage, loss, or death caused by equipment that, for purposes of subsection (a), is donated on or after the date that is 30 days after March 9, 2006.

(Pub. L. 109-177, title I, §125, Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 226.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, and not as part of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 which comprises this chapter.

§ 2234. Encouraging adoption of standards for firefighter health and safety

The Administrator shall promote adoption by fire services of national voluntary consensus standards for firefighter health and safety, including such standards for firefighter operations, training, staffing, and fitness, by—

- (1) educating fire services about such standards;
- (2) encouraging the adoption at all levels of government of such standards; and
- (3) making recommendations on other ways in which the Federal Government can promote the adoption of such standards by fire services.

(Pub. L. 93-498, §37, as added Pub. L. 110-376, §7, Oct. 8, 2008, 122 Stat. 4060.)

CHAPTER 50—CONSUMER PRODUCT WARRANTIES

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§ 2301. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter: