

§ 60501. Vessels allowed to import

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided by treaty, goods may be imported into the United States from a foreign port or place only in—

- (1) a vessel of the United States; or
- (2) a foreign vessel owned only by citizens or subjects of the country—

(A) in which the goods are grown, produced, or manufactured; or

(B) from which the goods can only be, or most usually are, first shipped for transportation.

(b) EXCEPTION FOR VESSELS OF COUNTRIES NOT MAINTAINING SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to a vessel of a foreign country that does not maintain a similar restriction against United States documented vessels.

(c) EXCEPTION FOR VESSELS BECOMING DOCUMENTED.—Subsection (a) does not apply to a vessel that—

(1) is owned only by citizens of the United States; and

(2) after entering a port of the United States, becomes documented as a vessel of the United States before leaving that port.

(d) SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE.—If goods are imported in violation of this section, the goods and the vessel in which they are imported, along with its equipment and other cargo, may be seized by and forfeited to the United States Government.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §9(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1679.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
60501(a)	19:130 (1st sentence).	Oct. 3, 1913, ch. 16, §IV(J)(2), (3), 38 Stat. 196; Mar. 15, 1915, ch. 171, §1, 38 Stat. 1193; Pub. L. 103–182, title VI, §689(a)(2), Dec. 8, 1993, 107 Stat. 2222.
60501(b)	19:131 (words before “nor”).	
60501(c)	19:131 (words beginning with “nor”).	
60501(d)	19:130 (last sentence related to 19:130).	

In this section, the word “goods” is substituted for “goods, wares, or merchandise” to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (a)(2), before subparagraph (A), the words “owned only by” are substituted for “truly and wholly belong to” for consistency in the revised title.

In subsection (b), the words “or goods, wares, or merchandise imported in vessels” are omitted as unnecessary because of the wording of subsection (a) of the revised section. The word “restriction” is substituted for “regulation” as being more appropriate.

Subsection (d) is substituted for “All goods, wares, or merchandise imported contrary to this section or section 128 of this title, and the vessel wherein the same shall be imported, together with her cargo, tackle, apparel, and furniture, shall be forfeited to the United States; and such goods, wares, or merchandise, ship, or vessel, and cargo shall be liable to be seized, prosecuted, and condemned in like manner, and under the same regulations, restrictions, and provisions as have been heretofore established for the recovery, collection, distribution, and remission of forfeitures to the United States by the several revenue laws” to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 60502. Discriminating duty on goods imported in foreign vessels or from contiguous countries

(a) IMPOSITION OF DUTY.—A discriminating duty of 10 percent ad valorem (in addition to other duties imposed by law) is imposed on goods—

(1) imported in a vessel not of the United States unless the vessel—

(A) is entitled by law or treaty to enter the ports of the United States on payment of the same duties as are payable on goods imported in a vessel of the United States; or

(B)(i) is owned only by citizens of the United States; and

(ii) after entering a port of the United States, becomes documented as a vessel of the United States before leaving that port; or

(2) produced or manufactured in a foreign country not contiguous to the United States and imported from a country contiguous to the United States, unless imported in the usual course of strictly retail trade.

(b) SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE.—If goods are imported without payment of the duty required by this section, the goods and the vessel in which they are imported may be seized by, and forfeited to, the United States Government.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §9(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1680.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
60502(a)	19:128.	Oct. 3, 1913, ch. 16, §IV(J)(1), 38 Stat. 196; Mar. 15, 1915, ch. 171, §1, 38 Stat. 1193; Pub. L. 103–182, title VI, §689(a)(1), Dec. 8, 1993, 107 Stat. 2222.
60502(b)	46 App.:146. 19:130 (last sentence related to 19:128).	Oct. 3, 1913, ch. 16, §IV(J)(2), 38 Stat. 196.

In this section, the word “goods” is substituted for “goods, wares, or merchandise” to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (a)(1), subparagraphs (A) and (B) are substituted for “but this discriminating duty shall not apply to goods, wares, or merchandise which shall be imported in vessels not of the United States entitled at the time of such importation by treaty or convention or Act of Congress to be entered in the ports of the United States on payment of the same duties as shall then be payable on goods, wares, and merchandise imported in vessels of the United States, nor to goods, wares, and merchandise imported in a vessel owned by citizens of the United States but not a vessel of the United States if such vessel after entering an American port shall, before leaving the same, be documented under chapter 121 of title 46” to eliminate unnecessary words.

Subsection (a)(2) is substituted for “or which being the production or manufacture of any foreign country not contiguous to the United States, shall come into the United States from such contiguous country” and “but this discriminating duty shall not apply . . . nor to such products or manufactures as shall be imported from such contiguous countries in the usual course of strictly retail trade” to eliminate unnecessary words.

Subsection (b) is substituted for the source provision for consistency with section 60501(d) and to eliminate unnecessary words. See note for section 60501(d) in this report.

§ 60503. Reciprocal suspension of discriminating duties

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—On receiving satisfactory proof from the government of a foreign country that it has suspended, in any part, the imposition of discriminating duties for any class of vessels owned by citizens of the United States or goods imported in those vessels, the President may proclaim a reciprocal suspension of discriminating duties for the same class of vessels owned by citizens of that country or goods imported in those vessels.

(b) EFFECTIVE AND EXPIRATION DATES.—A suspension under this section takes effect retroactively from the date the President received the proof from the foreign government, and expires when that government stops granting the reciprocal suspension.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §9(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1680.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
60503	46 App.:141.	R.S. §4228; July 24, 1897, ch. 13, 30 Stat. 214.

In this section, the word “goods” is substituted for “produce, manufactures, or merchandise”, “merchandise”, and “cargoes” for consistency in the chapter. Other changes are made to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 60504. Reciprocal privileges for recreational vessels

When the President is satisfied that yachts owned by residents of the United States and used only for pleasure are allowed to arrive at, depart from, and cruise in the waters of a foreign port without entering, clearing, or paying any duties or fees (including cruising license fees), the Secretary of Homeland Security may allow yachts from that foreign port used only for pleasure to arrive at and depart from the ports of the United States and to cruise in the waters of the United States without paying any duties or fees. However, the Secretary may require foreign yachts to obtain a license to cruise in the waters of the United States. The license shall be in the form prescribed by the Secretary and contain limitations about length of time, direction, place of cruising and action, and other matters the Secretary considers appropriate. The license shall be issued without cost to the yacht.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §9(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1680.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
60503	46 App.:104.	May 28, 1908, ch. 212, §5, 35 Stat. 425; Aug. 5, 1909, ch. 6, §37 (3d par.), 36 Stat. 112; June 26, 1948, ch. 673, 62 Stat. 1051.

The Secretary of Homeland Security is substituted for the Commissioner of Customs because the functions of the Customs Service and of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto were transferred to the Secretary of Homeland Security by section 403(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107–296, 116 Stat. 2178). The functions of the Commissioner of Customs

previously were vested in the Secretary of the Treasury under section 321(c) of title 31. For prior related transfers of functions, see the transfer of functions note under 46 App. U.S.C. 104.

§ 60505. Retaliatory suspension of commercial privileges

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The President may proclaim a suspension of commercial privileges to vessels of a foreign country when—

(1) vessels of that country have been given the same commercial privileges in the ports and waters of the United States given to vessels of the United States (except the privilege of engaging in coastwise commerce); and

(2) vessels of the United States are denied commercial privileges in the ports or waters of that country given to vessels of that country.

(b) APPLICATION.—A suspension under this section shall apply to the same commercial privileges denied to vessels of the United States in the ports or waters of the foreign country, and to the same class of vessels of that country as the class of vessels of the United States denied the privileges.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The President shall designate the effective date of the suspension in the proclamation.

(d) PENALTIES.—

(1) SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE.—If the master, officer, or agent of a vessel of a foreign country does an act for the vessel in the ports or waters of the United States in violation of a proclamation issued under this section, the vessel and the goods on the vessel may be seized by, and forfeited to, the United States Government.

(2) FINE OR IMPRISONMENT.—A person opposing an official of the Government enforcing this section shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or both.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §9(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1681.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
60505	46 App.:142.	June 19, 1886, ch. 421, §17, 24 Stat. 82.

In this section, the words “vessels of the United States” are used instead of both “vessels of the United States” and “American vessels” for consistency in the section. The words “vessels of a foreign country” and “vessels of that country” are substituted for “foreign country whose vessels”, “national vessels”, “vessels of such foreign country”, and similar references, for consistency. The words “ports and waters” and “ports or waters” are substituted for “ports”, “harbors, ports, or waters”, and “ports, harbors, or waters” for consistency.

In subsection (a), before paragraph (1), the words “on receiving satisfactory information of the continuance of such discriminations against any vessels of the United States” are omitted as unnecessary. In paragraph (1), the words “given the same commercial privileges” are substituted for “placed on the same footing” for clarity and for consistency in the section.

Subsection (b) is substituted for “excluding . . . from the exercise of such commercial privileges in the ports of the United States as are denied to American vessels in the ports of such foreign country, all vessels of such foreign country of a similar character to the vessels of the United States thus discriminated against” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.