

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

Functions vested in President by subsec. (b) delegated to Secretary of State, see section 1-402 of Ex. Ord. No. 12215, May 27, 1980, 45 F.R. 36044, set out as a note under section 3601 of this title.

PART 4—CLAIMS FOR INJURIES TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY

SUBPART I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 3761. Settlement of claims generally

(a) Claims for injury to, or loss of, property or personal injury or death arising from operation of Panama Canal

Subject to the provisions of this part, the Commission may adjust and pay claims for injury to, or loss of, property or for personal injury or death, arising from the operation of the Panama Canal or related facilities and appurtenances.

(b) Limitation on amount of claims

The Commission may pay not more than \$50,000 on any claim described in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Source of award; release

An award made to a claimant under this section shall be payable out of any moneys made available to the Commission. The acceptance by the claimant of the award shall be final and conclusive on the claimant, and shall constitute a complete release by the claimant of his claim against the United States and against any employee of the United States acting in the course of his employment who is involved in the matter giving rise to the claim.

(d) Action for damages on claims cognizable under this part; action against officers or employees of United States for injuries resulting from acts outside scope of their employment

Except as provided in section 3776 of this title, no action for damages on claims cognizable under this part shall lie against the United States or the Commission, and no such action shall lie against any officer or employee of the United States. Neither this section nor section 3776 of this title shall preclude actions against officers or employees of the United States for injuries resulting from their acts outside the scope of their employment or not in the line of their duties, or from their acts committed with the intent to injure the person or property of another.

(e) Applicability of provisions of section 1346 and chapter 171 of title 28

The provisions of section 1346(b) of title 28 and the provisions of chapter 171 of such title shall not apply to claims cognizable under this part.

(Pub. L. 96-70, title I, §1401, Sept. 27, 1979, 93 Stat. 484; Pub. L. 100-203, title V, §5417(a), Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-271; Pub. L. 104-106, div. C, title XXXV, §3529(4), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 642.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104-106 struck out “appropriated for or” after “any moneys”.

1987—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 100-203 amended subsec. (b) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (b) read as fol-

lows: “No claim for an amount exceeding \$50,000 shall be adjusted and paid by the Commission under the provisions of this subpart.”

SUBPART II—VESSEL DAMAGE

§ 3771. Injuries in locks of canal; adjustment and payment of claims

(a) Subject to section 3779(b) of this title and to subsection (b) of this section, the Commission shall promptly adjust and pay damages for injuries to vessels, or to the cargo, crew, or passengers of vessels, which may arise by reason of their passage through the locks of the Panama Canal when the injury was proximately caused by negligence or fault on the part of an officer or employee of the United States acting within the scope of his employment and in the line of his duties in connection with the operation of the Canal. If the negligence or fault of the vessel, master, crew, or passengers proximately contributed to the injury, the award of damages shall be diminished in proportion to the negligence or fault attributable to the vessel, master, crew, or passengers. Damages may not be allowed and paid for injuries to any protrusion beyond any portion of the hull of a vessel, whether it is permanent or temporary in character. A vessel is considered to be passing through the locks of the Canal, under the control of officers or employees of the United States, from the time the first towing line is made fast on board before entrance into the locks and until the towing lines are cast off upon, or immediately prior to, departure from the lock chamber. No payment for damages on a claim may be made under this section unless the claim is filed with the Commission within one year after the date of the injury or by November 18, 1998, whichever is later.

(b)(1) With respect to a claim under subsection (a) of this section for damages for injuries to a vessel or its cargo, if, at the time the injuries were incurred, the navigation or movement of the vessel was not under the control of a Panama Canal pilot, the Commission may pay not more than \$50,000 on the claim, unless the injuries were caused by another vessel under the control of a Panama Canal pilot.

(2) The provisions of subsections (c) through (e) of section 3761 of this title shall apply to any claim described in paragraph (1).

(Pub. L. 96-70, title I, §1411, Sept. 27, 1979, 93 Stat. 485; Pub. L. 99-209, §2(a), (b), Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1716; Pub. L. 100-203, title V, §5417(b), Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-271; Pub. L. 105-85, div. C, title XXXV, §3543(a), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 2072; Pub. L. 105-261, div. C, title XXXV, §§3509(a)(1), 3512(a)(4), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2269, 2271.)

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-261 inserted “to section 3779(b) of this title and” after “Subject” in first sentence and substituted “by November 18, 1998” for “November 18, 1997”.

1997—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-85 substituted “within one year after the date of the injury or November 18, 1997,” for “within 2 years after the date of the injury, or within 1 year after December 23, 1985,”.

1987—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 100-203 substituted “pay not more than \$50,000 on the claim” for “adjust and pay