

United States standards or international standards which are accepted by the United States; or

(6) is not manned in compliance with manning levels as determined by the Secretary to be necessary to insure the safe navigation of the vessel; or

(7) while underway, does not have at least one licensed deck officer on the navigation bridge who is capable of clearly understanding English.

(b) Exceptions

The Secretary may allow provisional entry of a vessel not in compliance with subsection (a) of this section, if the owner or operator of such vessel proves, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, that such vessel is not unsafe or a threat to the marine environment, and if such entry is necessary for the safety of the vessel or persons aboard. In addition, paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply if the owner or operator of such vessel proves, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, that such vessel is no longer unsafe or a threat to the marine environment, and is no longer in violation of any applicable law, treaty, regulation or condition, as appropriate. Clauses (5) and (6) of subsection (a) of this section shall become applicable eighteen months after October 17, 1978.

(Pub. L. 92-340, §9, as added Pub. L. 95-474, §2, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1476; amended Pub. L. 101-380, title IV, §4106(c), Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 514.)

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-380, §4106(c)(1), substituted “chapter 37 of title 46” for “section 4417a of the Revised Statutes, as amended” in provisions preceding par. (1) and in par. (2) and substituted “section 9101 of title 46” for “section 4417a(11) of the Revised Statutes, as amended” in par. (5).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-380 applicable to incidents occurring after Aug. 18, 1990, see section 1020 of Pub. L. 101-380, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2701 of this title.

§ 1229. Applicability

This chapter shall not apply to the Panama Canal. The authority granted to the Secretary under sections 1223, 1224, and 1225 of this title shall not be delegated with respect to the Saint Lawrence Seaway to any agency other than the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. Any other authority granted the Secretary under this chapter shall be delegated to the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation to the extent he determines such delegation is necessary for the proper operation of the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

(Pub. L. 92-340, §10, as added Pub. L. 95-474, §2, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1477; amended Pub. L. 98-557, §29(h), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2875.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-557 struck out reference to section 1226 of this title.

§ 1230. International agreements

(a) Transmittal of regulations

The Secretary shall transmit, via the Secretary of State, to appropriate international bodies or forums, any regulations issued under this chapter, for consideration as international standards.

(b) Agreements

The President is authorized and encouraged to—

(1) enter into negotiations and conclude and execute agreements with neighboring nations, to establish compatible vessel standards and vessel traffic services, and to establish, operate, and maintain international vessel traffic services, in areas and under circumstances of mutual concern; and

(2) enter into negotiations, through appropriate international bodies, and conclude and execute agreements to establish vessel traffic services in appropriate areas of the high seas.

(c) Operations

The Secretary, pursuant to any agreement negotiated under subsection (b) of this section which is binding upon the United States in accordance with constitutional requirements, may—

(1) require vessels in the vessel traffic service area to utilize or to comply with the vessel traffic service, including the carrying or installation of equipment and devices as necessary for the use of the service; and

(2) waive, by order or regulation, the application of any United States law or regulation concerning the design, construction, operation, equipment, personnel qualifications, and manning standards for vessels operating in waters over which the United States exercises jurisdiction if such vessel is not en route to or from a United States port or place, and if vessels en route to or from a United States port or place are accorded equivalent waivers of laws and regulations of the neighboring nation, when operating in waters over which that nation exercises jurisdiction.

(d) Ship reporting systems

The Secretary, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, is authorized to implement and enforce two mandatory ship reporting systems, consistent with international law, with respect to vessels subject to such reporting systems entering the following areas of the Atlantic Ocean: Cape Cod Bay, Massachusetts Bay, and Great South Channel (in the area generally bounded by a line starting from a point on Cape Ann, Massachusetts at 42 deg. 39' N., 70 deg. 37' W; then northeast to 42 deg. 45' N., 70 deg. 13' W; then southeast to 42 deg. 10' N., 68 deg. 31' W, then south to 41 deg. 00' N., 68 deg. 31' W; then west to 41 deg. 00' N., 69 deg. 17' W; then northeast to 42 deg. 05' N., 70 deg. 02' W, then west to 42 deg. 04' N., 70 deg. 10' W; and then along the Massachusetts shoreline of Cape Cod Bay and Massachusetts Bay back to the point on Cape Ann at 42 deg. 39' N., 70 deg. 37' W) and in the coastal waters of the Southeastern United States within about 25 nm along a 90 nm stretch of the Atlantic seaboard (in an area generally

extending from the shoreline east to longitude 80 deg. 51.6' W with the southern and northern boundary at latitudes 30 deg. 00' N., 31 deg. 27' N., respectively.)

(Pub. L. 92-340, §11, as added Pub. L. 95-474, §2, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1477; amended Pub. L. 105-383, title III, §313, Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3424.)

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 105-383 added subsec. (d).

§ 1231. Regulations

(a) In general

In accordance with the provisions of section 553 of title 5, the Secretary shall issue, and may from time to time amend or repeal, regulations necessary to implement this chapter.

(b) Procedures

The Secretary, in the exercise of this regulatory authority, shall establish procedures for consulting with, and receiving and considering the views of all interested parties, including—

- (1) interested Federal departments and agencies,
- (2) officials of State and local governments,
- (3) representatives of the maritime community,
- (4) representatives of port and harbor authorities or associations,
- (5) representatives of environmental groups,
- (6) any other interested parties who are knowledgeable or experienced in dealing with problems involving vessel safety, port and waterways safety, and protection of the marine environment, and
- (7) advisory committees consisting of all interested segments of the public when the establishment of such committees is considered necessary because the issues involved are highly complex or controversial.

(Pub. L. 92-340, §12, as added Pub. L. 95-474, §2, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1477.)

§ 1231a. Towing Safety Advisory Committee

(a) Establishment; membership

There is established a Towing Safety Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”). The Committee shall consist of eighteen members with particular expertise, knowledge, and experience regarding shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety as follows:

- (1) Seven members representing the barge and towing industry, reflecting a regional geographic balance.
- (2) One member representing the offshore mineral and oil supply vessel industry.
- (3) One member representing holders of active licensed Masters or Pilots of towing vessels with experience on the Western Rivers and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.
- (4) One member representing the holders of active licensed Masters of towing vessels in offshore service.
- (5) One member representing Masters who are active ship-docking or harbor towing vessel.¹

¹ So in original.

(6) One member representing licensed or unlicensed towing vessel engineers with formal training and experience.

(7) Two members representing each of the following groups:

- (A) Port districts, authorities, or terminal operators.
- (B) Shippers (of whom at least one shall be engaged in the shipment of oil or hazardous materials by barge).

(8) Two members representing the general public.

(b) Appointments; Chairman, Vice Chairman, and observers; publication in Federal Register

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”) shall appoint the members of the Committee. The Secretary shall designate one of the members of the Committee as the Chairman and one of the members as the Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall act as Chairman in the absence or incapacity of, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of, the Chairman. The Secretary may request the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Commerce to each designate a representative to participate as an observer on the Committee. The Secretary shall, not less often than once a year, publish notice in the Federal Register for solicitation of nominations for membership on the Committee.

(c) Functions; meetings; public proceedings and records; disclosures to Congress

The Committee shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the Secretary on matters relating to shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety. Any advice or recommendation made by the Committee to the Secretary shall reflect the independent judgment of the Committee on the matter concerned. The Secretary shall consult with the Committee before taking any significant action affecting shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety. The Committee shall meet at the call of the Secretary, but in any event not less than once during each calendar year. All proceedings of the Committee shall be open to the public, and a record of the proceedings shall be made available for public inspection. The Committee is authorized to make available to Congress any information, advice, and recommendations which the Committee is authorized to give to the Secretary.

(d) Compensation and travel expenses; administrative services; personnel; authorization of appropriations

Members of the Committee who are not officers or employees of the United States shall serve without pay and members of the Committee who are officers or employees of the United States shall receive no additional pay on account of their service on the Committee. While away from their homes or regular places of business, members of the Committee may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5. The Secretary shall furnish to the Committee