

(Pub. L. 111-281, title X, §1041, Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 3029.)

### § 3852. Civil enforcement

#### (a) Civil penalty

##### (1) In general

Any person who is found by the Secretary or the Administrator, as appropriate, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, to have—

(A) violated the Convention, this chapter, or any regulation prescribed under this chapter, is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$37,500 for each violation; or

(B) made a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation in any matter in which a statement or representation is required to be made to the Secretary under the Convention, this chapter, or any regulations prescribed under this chapter, is liable to the United States for a civil penalty of not more than \$50,000 for each such statement or representation.

##### (2) Relationship to other law

This subsection shall not limit or affect the authority of the Government under section 1001 of title 18.

#### (b) Assessment of penalty

The amount of the civil penalty shall be assessed by the Secretary or Administrator, as appropriate, by written notice.

#### (c) Limitation for recreational vessel

A civil penalty imposed under subsection (a) against the owner or operator of a recreational vessel, as that term is defined in section 2101 of title 46, for a violation of the Convention, this chapter, or any regulation prescribed under this chapter involving that recreational vessel, may not exceed \$5,000 for each violation.

#### (d) Determination of penalty

For purposes of penalties under this section, each day of a continuing violation constitutes a separate violation. In determining the amount of the penalty, the Secretary or Administrator shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts committed and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, the economic impact of the penalty on the violator, the economic benefit to the violator and other matters as justice may require.

#### (e) Reward

An amount equal to not more than one-half of any civil penalty assessed by the Secretary or Administrator under this section may, subject to the availability of appropriations, be paid by the Secretary or Administrator, respectively, to any person who provided information that led to the assessment or imposition of the penalty.

#### (f) Referral to Attorney General

If any person fails to pay a civil penalty assessed under this section after it has become final, or comply with an order issued under this chapter, the Secretary or Administrator, as appropriate, may refer the matter to the Attorney

General of the United States for collection in any appropriate district court of the United States.

#### (g) Compromise, modification, or remission

Before referring any civil penalty that is subject to assessment or has been assessed under this section to the Attorney General, the Secretary, or Administrator, as appropriate, may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, the civil penalty.

#### (h) Nonpayment penalty

Any person who fails to pay on a timely basis a civil penalty assessed under this section shall also be liable to the United States for interest on the penalty at an annual rate equal to 11 percent compounded quarterly, attorney fees and costs for collection proceedings, and a quarterly nonpayment penalty for each quarter during which such failure to pay persists. That nonpayment penalty shall be in an amount equal to 20 percent of the aggregate amount of that person's penalties and nonpayment penalties that are unpaid as of the beginning of that quarter.

(Pub. L. 111-281, title X, §1042, Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 3030.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (a)(1), (c), and (f), was in the original "this title", meaning title X of Pub. L. 111-281, Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 3023, which enacted this chapter and repealed chapter 37 (§2401 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of title X to the Code, see Tables.

### § 3853. Liability in rem

A vessel operated in violation of the Convention, this chapter, or any regulation prescribed under this chapter, is liable in rem for any fine imposed under title 18 or civil penalty assessed pursuant to section 3852 of this title, and may be proceeded against in the United States district court of any district in which the vessel may be found.

(Pub. L. 111-281, title X, §1043, Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 3031; Pub. L. 111-330, §1(20), Dec. 22, 2010, 124 Stat. 3571.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this title", meaning title X of Pub. L. 111-281, Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 3023, which enacted this chapter and repealed chapter 37 (§2401 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of title X to the Code, see Tables.

#### AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111-330 substituted "under title 18" for "under section 18".

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-330, §1, Dec. 22, 2010, 124 Stat. 3569, provided that the amendment made by section 1(20) is effective with the enactment of Pub. L. 111-281.

### § 3854. Vessel clearance or permits; refusal or revocation; bond or other surety

If any vessel that is subject to the Convention or this chapter, or its owner, operator, or person in charge, is liable for a fine or civil penalty under section 3852 or 3853 of this title, or if reasonable cause exists to believe that the vessel,