

paragraph. The findings and order of the Board are competent evidence of the facts stated in them. Trial in a civil action brought in a district court of the United States under this paragraph is in the judicial district in which the plaintiff resides or in which the principal operating office of the carrier is located. In a civil action under this paragraph, the plaintiff is liable for only those costs that accrue on an appeal taken by the plaintiff.

(2) ATTORNEY'S FEES.—The district court shall award a reasonable attorney's fee as a part of the damages for which a carrier is found liable under this subsection. The district court shall tax and collect that fee as a part of the costs of the action.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §106(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 927; amended Pub. L. 105-102, §2(15), Nov. 20, 1997, 111 Stat. 2205; Pub. L. 105-225, §7(b)(2), Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1511.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

PUB. L. 105-102

This amends 49:15904(c)(1) to correct an erroneous cross-reference.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 11705 of this title prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a).

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 105-225 inserted "section" before "15901(b)".

1997—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 105-102 substituted "15901(b)" for "section 11501(b)".

§ 15905. Limitation on actions by and against pipeline carriers

(a) IN GENERAL.—A pipeline carrier providing transportation or service subject to this part must begin a civil action to recover charges for transportation or service provided by the carrier within 3 years after the claim accrues.

(b) OVERCHARGES.—A person must begin a civil action to recover overcharges under section 15904(b)(1) within 3 years after the claim accrues. If an election to file a complaint with the Board is made under section 15904(c)(1), the complaint must be filed within 3 years after the claim accrues.

(c) DAMAGES.—A person must file a complaint with the Board to recover damages under section 15904(b)(2) within 2 years after the claim accrues.

(d) EXTENSIONS.—The limitation periods under subsection (b) are extended for 6 months from the time written notice is given to the claimant by the carrier of disallowance of any part of the claim specified in the notice if a written claim is given to the carrier within those limitation periods. The limitation periods under subsection (b) and the 2-year period under subsection (c) are extended for 90 days from the time the carrier begins a civil action under subsection (a) to recover charges related to the same transportation or service, or collects (without beginning a civil action under that subsection) the charge for that transportation or service if that action is begun or collection is made within the appropriate period.

(e) PAYMENT.—A person must begin a civil action to enforce an order of the Board against a carrier for the payment of money within one year after the date the order required the money to be paid.

(f) GOVERNMENT TRANSPORTATION.—This section applies to transportation for the United States Government. The time limitations under this section are extended, as related to transportation for or on behalf of the United States Government, for 3 years from the date of—

(1) payment of the rate for the transportation or service involved,

(2) subsequent refund for overpayment of that rate, or

(3) deduction made under section 3726 of title 31,

whichever is later.

(g) ACCRUAL DATE.—A claim related to a shipment of property accrues under this section on delivery or tender of delivery by the carrier.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §106(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 928.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 11706 of this title prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a).

§ 15906. Liability of pipeline carriers under receipts and bills of lading

(a) GENERAL LIABILITY.—A pipeline carrier providing transportation or service subject to this part shall issue a receipt or bill of lading for property it receives for transportation under this part. That carrier and any other carrier that delivers the property and is providing transportation or service subject to jurisdiction under this part are liable to the person entitled to recover under the receipt or bill of lading. The liability imposed under this subsection is for the actual loss or injury to the property caused by the carrier over whose line or route the property is transported in the United States or from a place in the United States to a place in an adjacent foreign country when transported under a through bill of lading. Failure to issue a receipt or bill of lading does not affect the liability of a carrier.

(b) APPORTIONMENT.—The carrier issuing the receipt or bill of lading under subsection (a) or delivering the property for which the receipt or bill of lading was issued is entitled to recover from the carrier over whose line or route the loss or injury occurred the amount required to be paid to the owners of the property, as evidenced by a receipt, judgment, or transcript, and the amount of its expenses reasonably incurred in defending a civil action brought by that person.

(c) CIVIL ACTIONS.—A civil action under this section may be brought against a delivering carrier in a district court of the United States or in a State court. Trial, if the action is brought in a district court of the United States is in a judicial district, and if in a State court, is in a State, through which the defendant carrier operates a line or route.

(d) MINIMUM PERIOD FOR FILING CLAIMS.—A pipeline carrier may not provide by rule, con-

tract, or otherwise, a period of less than 9 months for filing a claim against it under this section and a period of less than 2 years for bringing a civil action against it under this section. The period for bringing a civil action is computed from the date the carrier gives a person written notice that the carrier has disallowed any part of the claim specified in the notice. For the purposes of this subsection—

(1) an offer of compromise shall not constitute a disallowance of any part of the claim unless the carrier, in writing, informs the claimant that such part of the claim is disallowed and provides reasons for such disallowance; and

(2) communications received from a carrier's insurer shall not constitute a disallowance of any part of the claim unless the insurer, in writing, informs the claimant that such part of the claim is disallowed, provides reasons for such disallowance, and informs the claimant that the insurer is acting on behalf of the carrier.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §106(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 929.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 11707 of this title prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a).

CHAPTER 161—CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES

Sec.	
16101.	General civil penalties.
16102.	Recordkeeping and reporting violations.
16103.	Unlawful disclosure of information.
16104.	Disobedience to subpoenas.
16105.	General criminal penalty when specific penalty not provided.
16106.	Punishment of corporation for violations committed by certain individuals.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-287, §5(46), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3393, struck out duplicative chapter heading.

§ 16101. General civil penalties

(a) GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, a pipeline carrier providing transportation subject to this part, an officer or agent of that carrier, or a receiver, trustee, lessee, or agent of one of them, knowingly violating this part or an order of the Board under this part is liable to the United States for a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each violation. Liability under this subsection is incurred for each distinct violation. A separate violation occurs for each day the violation continues.

(b) RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING.—

(1) RECORDS.—A person required under chapter 157 to make, prepare, preserve, or submit to the Board a record concerning transportation subject to this part that does not make, prepare, preserve, or submit that record as required under that chapter, is liable to the United States for a civil penalty of \$500 for each violation.

(2) INSPECTION.—A carrier providing transportation subject to this part, and a lessor, receiver, or trustee of that carrier, violating sec-

tion 15722, is liable to the United States for a civil penalty of \$100 for each violation.

(3) REPORTS.—A carrier providing transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the Board under this part, a lessor, receiver, or trustee of that carrier, and an officer, agent, or employee of one of them, required to make a report to the Board or answer a question that does not make the report or does not specifically, completely, and truthfully answer the question, is liable to the United States for a civil penalty of \$100 for each violation.

(4) CONTINUED VIOLATION.—A separate violation occurs for each day violation under this subsection continues.

(c) VENUE.—Trial in a civil action under this section is in the judicial district in which the carrier has its principal operating office.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §106(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 930; amended Pub. L. 105-102, §2(16), Nov. 20, 1997, 111 Stat. 2205.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

PUB. L. 105-102

This amends 49:16101 to redesignate subsection (d) as (c) because no subsection (c) was enacted.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 11901 of this title prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a).

AMENDMENTS

1997—Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 105-102 redesignated subsec. (d) as (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective Jan. 1, 1996, except as otherwise provided in Pub. L. 104-88, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as a note under section 701 of this title.

§ 16102. Recordkeeping and reporting violations

A person required to make a report to the Board, or make, prepare, or preserve a record, under chapter 157 about transportation subject to this part that knowingly and willfully—

(1) makes a false entry in the report or record,

(2) destroys, mutilates, changes, or by another means falsifies the record,

(3) does not enter business related facts and transactions in the record,

(4) makes, prepares, or preserves the record in violation of a regulation or order of the Board, or

(5) files a false report or record with the Board,

shall be fined under title 18 or imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §106(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 930.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 11909 of this title prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a).

§ 16103. Unlawful disclosure of information

(a) GENERAL PROHIBITION.—A pipeline carrier providing transportation subject to this part, or