

chapter or a regulation prescribed under this chapter.

(e)(1) If any owner, operator, or individual in charge of a vessel is liable for any penalty or fine under this section, or if reasonable cause exists to believe that the owner, operator, or individual in charge may be subject to any penalty or fine under this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security, upon the request of the Secretary, shall with respect to such vessel refuse or revoke any clearance required by section 60105 of this title.

(2) Clearance or a permit refused or revoked under this subsection may be granted upon filing of a bond or other surety satisfactory to the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 527; Pub. L. 101-380, title IV, § 4302(c), Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 538; Pub. L. 104-324, title III, § 312(d), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3921; Pub. L. 109-304, § 15(17), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1703.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i>
3718 .....	46:391a(14)

Section 3718 provides the authority to assess civil penalties for violation of the chapter or regulations. Each violation subjects the violator to a penalty not to exceed \$25,000 for each violation and, in the case of a continuing violation, each day shall constitute a separate violation and the vessel is liable in rem. The procedures for assessing penalties are found in section 2107 of part A.

With respect to criminal penalties, a willful or knowing violation of the section or a regulation subjects the offender, upon conviction, to a criminal fine of not more than \$50,000 for each violation or imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both. If the willful and knowing violation involves the use of a dangerous weapon or constitutes an assault or battery, the offender is subjected to a fine of not more than \$100,000 or imprisonment of not more than 10 years, or both.

In addition, where the owner or operator of the vessel is subject to any of the penalties prescribed, the Secretary of the Treasury is directed to withhold required Customs clearance, at the request of the Secretary. Clearance may be granted upon the filing of a bond or other surety satisfactory to the Secretary.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 109-304 substituted “Secretary of Homeland Security” and “section 60105 of this title” for “Secretary of the Treasury” and “section 4197 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (46 App. U.S.C. 91)”, respectively.

1996—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-324 amended subsec. (e) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (e) read as follows: “At the request of the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury shall withhold or revoke the clearance required by section 4197 of the Revised Statutes (46 App. U.S.C. 91) of a vessel the owner or operator of which is subject to a penalty under this section. Clearance may be granted on filing a bond or other surety satisfactory to the Secretary.”

1990—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-380, § 4302(c)(1), substituted “commits a class D felony” for “shall be fined not more than \$50,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-380, § 4302(c)(2), substituted “commits a class C felony” for “shall be fined not more than \$100,000, imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both”.

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 Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters.

**§ 3719. Reduction of oil spills from single hull non-self-propelled tank vessels**

The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Towing Safety Advisory Committee and taking into consideration the characteristics, methods of operation, and the size and nature of service of single hull non-self-propelled tank vessels and towing vessels, prescribe regulations requiring a single hull non-self-propelled tank vessel that operates in the open ocean or coastal waters, or the vessel towing it, to have at least one of the following:

(1) A crew member and an operable anchor on board the tank vessel that together are capable of arresting the tank vessel without additional assistance under reasonably foreseeable sea conditions.

(2) An emergency system on the tank vessel or towing vessel that without additional assistance under reasonably foreseeable sea conditions will allow the tank vessel to be retrieved by the towing vessel if the tow line ruptures.

(3) Any other measure or combination of measures that the Secretary determines will provide protection against grounding of the tank vessel comparable to that provided by the measures described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(Added Pub. L. 104-324, title IX, § 901(a), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3946.)

REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 104-324, title IX, § 901(b), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3946, provided that: “The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue regulations required under section 3719 of title 46, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), by not later than October 1, 1997.”

**[CHAPTER 39—REPEALED]**

**[§§ 3901, 3902. Repealed. Pub. L. 107-171, title X, § 10418(a)(20), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 508]**

Section 3901, Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 528, related to regulations for accommodations for export animals.

Section 3902, Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 528, related to penalties.

**CHAPTER 41—UNINSPECTED VESSELS  
GENERALLY**

- Sec.
- 4101. Application.
- 4102. Safety equipment.
- 4103. Exemptions.
- [4104. Repealed.]
- 4105. Uninspected passenger vessels.
- 4106. Penalties.

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Chapter 41 applies to vessels that are not subject to inspection and certification under chapter 33.

The Federal authority to regulate uninspected vessels originated with the Motorboat Act of 1910 (Public Law 61-201, 36 Stat. 462) when Congress established standards with respect to navigation lights, machinery requirements, life preservers, and for the licensing of operators on small vessels carrying passengers. This was an extension of Federal regulatory authority over certain non-steam-propelled vessels, that is, those rec-

reational vessels and commercial vessels that are propelled by machinery other than steam.

Thirty years later, the 1910 Act was amended by the Motorboat Act of 1940 (Public Law 76-484, 54 Stat. 163), which added to the equipment that was required and provided for other regulatory controls. In this manner the Federal Government continued to exercise some degree of maritime safety supervision over the commercial and recreational vessel sector that was "uninspected". This was important because steam towing vessels were converting to diesel propulsion and were therefore no longer subject to the detailed periodic and extensive hull, machinery, and equipment inspections of a Federal agency. In addition, the number of recreational vessels primarily propelled by gasoline were increasing and were also suffering casualties from explosions and fires.

AMENDMENTS

1990—Pub. L. 101-595, title VI, §603(3)(B), Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2993, struck out item 4104 "Regulations".

1984—Pub. L. 98-364, title IV, §402(7)(B), July 17, 1984, 98 Stat. 446, inserted "GENERALLY" in chapter heading.

§ 4101. Application

This chapter applies to an uninspected vessel not subject to chapter 45 of this title—

- (1) on the navigable waters of the United States; or
- (2) owned in the United States and operating on the high seas.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 528; Pub. L. 100-424, §8(b), Sept. 9, 1988, 102 Stat. 1593.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i>
4101 .....	46:526u

Section 4101 makes this chapter applicable to uninspected vessels, as defined in section 2101(43), that operate on the navigable waters of the United States or that are owned in the United States and while operating on the high seas. Therefore a vessel that operates on waters that are considered to be solely State waters would not be subject to these Federal requirements.

AMENDMENTS

1988—Pub. L. 100-424 inserted "not subject to chapter 45 of this title" after "an uninspected vessel".

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective Apr. 15, 1984, see section 2(g)(1) of Pub. L. 98-89, set out as a note under section 3101 of this title.

§ 4102. Safety equipment

(a) Each uninspected vessel propelled by machinery shall be provided with the number, type, and size of fire extinguishers, capable of promptly and effectively extinguishing burning liquid fuel, that may be prescribed by regulation. The fire extinguishers shall be kept in condition for immediate and effective use and so placed as to be readily accessible.

(b) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations requiring the installation, maintenance, and use of life preservers and other lifesaving devices for individuals on board uninspected vessels.

(c) Each uninspected vessel shall have the carburetors of each engine of the vessel (except an outboard motor) using gasoline as fuel, equipped with an efficient flame arrestor, backfire trap, or other similar device prescribed by regulation.

(d) Each uninspected vessel using a volatile liquid as fuel shall be provided with the means prescribed by regulation for properly and efficiently ventilating the bilges of the engine and fuel tank compartments, so as to remove any explosive or flammable gases.

(e) Each manned uninspected vessel owned in the United States and operating beyond 3 nautical miles from the baselines from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured or beyond three nautical miles from the coastline of the Great Lakes shall be equipped with the number and type of alerting and locating equipment, including emergency position indicating radio beacons, prescribed by the Secretary.

(f)(1) The Secretary, in consultation with the Towing Safety Advisory Committee and taking into consideration the characteristics, methods of operation, and nature of service of towing vessels, may require the installation, maintenance, and use of a fire suppression system or other measures to provide adequate assurance that fires on board towing vessels can be suppressed under reasonably foreseeable circumstances.

(2) The Secretary shall require under paragraph (1) the use of a fire suppression system or other measures to provide adequate assurance that a fire on board a towing vessel that is towing a non-self-propelled tank vessel can be suppressed under reasonably foreseeable circumstances.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 528; Pub. L. 99-640, §16, Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3552; Pub. L. 100-424, §2(c), Sept. 9, 1988, 102 Stat. 1590; Pub. L. 100-540, §1(a), Oct. 28, 1988, 102 Stat. 2719; Pub. L. 104-324, title IX, §902(a), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3947; Pub. L. 105-383, title III, §301(b)(3), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3417; Pub. L. 111-281, title VI, §619, Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 2975.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i>
4102(a) .....	46:526g
4102(b) .....	46:526e
4102(c) .....	46:526i
4102(d) .....	46:526j

Section 4102 requires uninspected vessels to comply with certain provisions that incorporate minimum safety equipment and construction requirements. The Committee intends that the term life preserver include all types of personal equipment, including exposure suits with floatation characteristics.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 111-281 amended subsec. (b) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (b) read as follows: "Each uninspected vessel propelled by machinery shall carry at least one readily accessible life preserver or other lifesaving device, of the type prescribed by regulation, for each individual on board."

1998—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 105-383 substituted "owned in the United States and operating beyond 3 nautical miles from the baselines from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured" for "operating on the high seas".

1996—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 104-324 added subsec. (f).

1988—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 100-540 amended subsec. (e) generally without regard to the prior repeal of subsec. (e) by Pub. L. 100-424.

Pub. L. 100-424 struck out subsec. (e) which read as follows: "Each uninspected fishing, fish processing, or