

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 575; Pub. L. 103-206, title IV, §422(b), Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2439.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised section</i> | <i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10902(a) | 46:653 |
| 10902(b) | 46:662 |

Section 10902 instructs the crew on making complaints of unfitness of vessel with regard to equipment and provisions, and instructs the master on responding to those complaints, and provides a penalty for violations.

AMENDMENTS

1993—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 103-206, §422(b)(1), inserted “Secretary,” after “The complaint may be made to the” and struck out “Coast Guard shipping commissioner,” after “consular officer.”

Subsec. (b)(2), (3). Pub. L. 103-206, §422(b)(2), substituted “The Secretary, officer,” for “The officer, commissioner.”

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the United States Customs Service of the Department of the Treasury, including functions of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 203(1), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6. For establishment of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the Department of Homeland Security, treated as if included in Pub. L. 107-296 as of Nov. 25, 2002, see section 211 of Title 6, as amended generally by Pub. L. 114-125, and section 802(b) of Pub. L. 114-125, set out as a note under section 211 of Title 6.

§ 10903. Proceedings on examination of vessel

(a) On application made under section 10902(a) of this title, the judge or justice of the peace shall appoint 3 experienced and skilled marine surveyors to examine the vessel for the defects or insufficiencies complained of. The surveyors have the authority to receive and consider evidence necessary to evaluate the complaint. When the complaint involves provisions of food or water, one of the surveyors shall be a medical officer of the Public Health Service, if available. The surveyors shall make a report in writing, signed by at least 2 of them, stating whether the vessel is fit to proceed to sea or, if not, in what respect it is unfit, making appropriate recommendations about additional seamen, provisions, or stores, or about physical repairs, alterations, or additions necessary to make the vessel fit.

(b) On receiving the report, the judge or justice of the peace shall endorse on the report the judgment of the judge or justice on whether the vessel is fit to proceed on the voyage, and, if not, whether the vessel may proceed to another port at which the deficiencies can be corrected. The master and the crew shall comply with the judgment.

(c) The master shall pay all costs of the survey, report, and judgment. However, if the complaint of the crew appears in the report and judgment to have been without foundation, or if the complaint involved provisions of food or water, without reasonable grounds, the master

or owner may deduct the amount of the costs and reasonable damages for the detention of the vessel, as determined by the judge or justice of the peace, from the wages of the complaining seamen.

(d) A master of a vessel violating this section who refuses to pay the costs and wages is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of \$100 and is liable in damages to each person injured by the refusal.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 575.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised section</i> | <i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10903(a), (b) | 46:654 |
| 10903(c) | 46:659 |
| 10903(d) | 46:660 |

Section 10903 provides for marine surveyors appointed by a judge or justice of the peace to inspect a vessel on which a complaint of unfitness was made, for a judge or justice of the peace to judge the fitness based on the findings, and for the payment of costs of the inspection by the master or the crew. It also includes a penalty for noncompliance.

§ 10904. Refusal to proceed

After a judgment under section 10903 of this title that a vessel is fit to proceed on the intended voyage, or after the order of a judgment to make up deficiencies is complied with, if a seaman does not proceed on the voyage, the unpaid wages of the seaman are forfeited.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 576.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised section</i> | <i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10904 | 46:655 |

Section 10904 provides that if a vessel is found fit to proceed by a judge or justice of the peace and a seaman refuses to proceed, the seaman shall forfeit any unpaid wages.

§ 10905. Complaints in foreign ports

(a) When a complaint under section 10902(a) of this title is made in a foreign port, the procedures of this chapter shall be followed, with a consular officer performing the duties of the judge or justice of the peace.

(b) On review of the marine surveyors’ report, the consular officer may approve and must certify any part of the report with which the officer agrees. If the consular officer dissents from any part of the report, the officer shall certify reasons for dissenting from that part.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 576.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised section</i> | <i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10905 | 46:656 46:657 |

Section 10905 provides that if a complaint of unfitness is made in a foreign port, a consular officer shall perform the duties of a judge or justice of the peace.

§ 10906. Discharge of crew for unsuitability

When a survey is made at a foreign port, the surveyors shall state in the report whether, in