

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
53735(a)	46 App.:1279f(e).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XI, §1111, as added Pub. L. 104-297, title III, §303, Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3616; Pub. L. 104-208, title I, §101 [title II, §211(b)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-41.
53735(b)	46 App.:1279f(a).	
53735(c)	46 App.:1279f(b).	
53735(d)	46 App.:1279f(c).	
53735(e)	46 App.:1279f(d).	

CODIFICATION

This section was derived from section 1111 of act June 29, 1936, as added by Pub. L. 104-297, §303, which was classified to section 1279f of the former Appendix to this title. Section 1111 was renumbered section 1113 of the Act by Pub. L. 109-163, div. C, title XXXV, §3507(d), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3557, which was repealed by Pub. L. 110-181, div. C, title XXXV, §3522(b), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 598. See Historical and Revision notes above and section 18(a) of Pub. L. 109-304, set out as a Legislative Purpose and Construction note preceding section 101 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-181 repealed Pub. L. 109-163, §3507(a)(1)(H), (d). See 2006 Amendment note below and Codification note above.

2006—Pub. L. 109-163, §3507(a)(1)(H), which directed the amendment of section 1279f of the former Appendix to this title from which this section was derived by substituting “Secretary or Administrator” for “Secretary” wherever appearing, was repealed by Pub. L. 110-181, §3522(b). See Historical and Revision notes above.

CHAPTER 539—WAR RISK INSURANCE

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§ 53901. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) AMERICAN VESSEL.—The term “American vessel” includes—

(A) a documented vessel with a registry or coastwise endorsement under chapter 121 of this title;

(B) an undocumented vessel owned or chartered by or made available to the United States Government; and

(C) a tug, barge, or other watercraft (whether or not documented) owned by a citizen of the United States and used in essential water transportation or in the fisheries, except only for sport fishing.

(2) CARGO.—The term “cargo” includes a loaded or empty container on a vessel.

(3) TRANSPORTATION IN THE WATERBORNE COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term

“transportation in the waterborne commerce of the United States” includes the operation of a vessel in the fisheries, except only for sport fishing.

(4) WAR RISKS.—The term “war risks” includes, to the extent the Secretary of Transportation determines—

(A) any part of a loss excluded from marine insurance coverage under a “free of capture or seizure” clause or analogous clause; and

(B) any other loss from a hostile act, including confiscation, expropriation, nationalization, or deprivation.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1626.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
53901(1)	46 App.:1281(a).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XII, §§1201(a), (b), as added Sept. 7, 1950, ch. 906, 64 Stat. 773.
53901(2)	46 App.:1283(b) (last sentence).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XII, §1203(b) (last sentence), as added Sept. 7, 1950, ch. 906, 64 Stat. 774; Pub. L. 94-523, §2, Oct. 17, 1976, 90 Stat. 2474.
53901(3)	46 App.:1281(b).	
53901(4)	46 App.:1281(c).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XII, §1201(c), as added Sept. 7, 1950, ch. 906, 64 Stat. 773; restated Pub. L. 107-107, title XXXV, §3502, Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1392.

In paragraph (1)(A), the words “a documented vessel with a registry or coastwise endorsement under chapter 121 of this title” are substituted for “any vessel registered, enrolled, or licensed under the laws of the United States” because of 46 U.S.C. 12101(b).

In paragraph (1)(B), the words “or any department or agency thereof” are omitted as surplus.

In paragraph (1)(C), the word “fisheries” is substituted for “fishing trade or industry” because of the definition of “fisheries” in chapter 1 of the revised title.

§ 53902. Authority to provide insurance

(a) IN GENERAL.—With the approval of the President, and after such consultation with interested agencies of United States Government as the President may require, the Secretary of Transportation may provide insurance and reinsurance against loss or damage from war risks as provided by this chapter whenever it appears to the Secretary that insurance adequate for the needs of the waterborne commerce of the United States cannot be obtained on reasonable terms and conditions from companies authorized to do insurance business in a State of the United States.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF RISK.—Insurance or reinsurance under this chapter shall be based, insofar as practicable, on consideration of the risk involved.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF VESSEL DURING WAR OR NATIONAL EMERGENCY.—Insurance or reinsurance for a vessel may be provided under this chapter only on the condition that the vessel will be available to the Government in time of war or national emergency.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1627.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
53902	46 App.:1282.	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XII, §1202, as added Sept. 7, 1950, ch. 906, 64 Stat. 773; Pub. L. 101-115, §7(a), Oct. 13, 1989, 103 Stat. 694.

§ 53903. Insurable interests

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation may provide insurance and reinsurance under this chapter for—

(1) an American vessel, including a vessel under construction;

(2) a foreign vessel—

(A) owned by a citizen of the United States; or

(B) engaged in transportation in the waterborne commerce of the United States or in such other transportation by water or such other services as the Secretary considers to be in the interest of the national defense or national economy of the United States, when so engaged;

(3) cargo—

(A) shipped or to be shipped on a vessel insurable under this section, including by express or registered mail;

(B) owned by a citizen or resident of the United States;

(C) imported to or exported from the United States, or sold or purchased by a citizen or resident of the United States, under a contract of sale or purchase the terms of which provide that the risk of loss by war risks or the obligation to provide insurance against war risks is on a citizen or resident of the United States; or

(D) shipped between ports in the United States;

(4) disbursements, including advances to masters and general average disbursements, and freight and passage money of a vessel insurable under this section;

(5) personal effects of an individual on a vessel insurable under this section;

(6) loss of life, injury, or detention by an enemy of the United States after capture, with respect to an individual on a vessel insurable under this section; and

(7) statutory or contractual obligations or other liabilities of a vessel insurable under this section or of the owner or charterer of such a vessel, of a nature customarily covered by insurance.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS FOR FOREIGN VESSELS.—In determining whether to provide insurance or reinsurance for a foreign vessel, the Secretary shall consider the characteristics, employment, and general management of the vessel by the owner or charterer.

(c) NON-WAR RISKS.—Insurance of a risk under subsection (a)(5)–(7), insofar as it involves a liability related to an individual on the vessel, may include risks other than war risks to the extent the Secretary considers advisable.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1627.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
53903(a)	46 App.:1283(a) (1st sentence), (b) (1st sentence), (c)–(f).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XII, §1203(a) (1st, 2d sentences), (b) (1st sentence), (c)–(f), as added Sept. 7, 1950, ch. 906, 64 Stat. 773, 774; Pub. L. 94-523, §§1-3, Oct. 17, 1976, 90 Stat. 2474.
53903(b)	46 App.:1283(a) (2d sentence).	
53903(c)	46 App.:1284.	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XII, §1204, as added Sept. 7, 1950, ch. 906, 64 Stat. 774.

In subsections (a)(2) and (b), the words “foreign vessel” are substituted for “foreign-flag vessels” because of the definition of “foreign vessel” in chapter 1 of the revised title.

In paragraph (3), references to the territories and possessions of the United States are omitted as unnecessary because of the definition of “United States” in chapter 1 of the revised title.

In paragraph (5), the words “individual on a vessel insurable under this section” are substituted for “masters, officers, and crews of such vessels, and of other persons transported on such vessels” to eliminate unnecessary words.

In paragraph (6), the words “individual on a vessel insurable under this section” are substituted for “Masters, officers, members of the crews of such vessels and other persons employed or transported thereon” to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 53904. Liability insurance for persons involved in war or defense efforts

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation may provide insurance under this chapter against legal liability that a person may incur in providing services or facilities for a vessel if, in the opinion of the Secretary, the insurance—

(1) is required in prosecuting a war or for national defense; and

(2) cannot be obtained at reasonable rates or on reasonable terms and conditions from approved companies authorized to do insurance business in a State of the United States.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—Employer liability insurance and worker compensation insurance against legal liability to employees may not be provided under this section.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1628.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
53904	46 App.:1286.	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XII, §1206, as added Sept. 7, 1950, ch. 906, 64 Stat. 774; Aug. 3, 1956, ch. 929, §5, 70 Stat. 986.

In subsection (a), the words “a vessel” are substituted for “any American- or foreign-flag vessel, public or private” to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 53905. Agency insurance

(a) IN GENERAL.—With the approval of the President, an agency of the United States Government may obtain insurance provided for by this chapter from the Secretary of Transportation, except as provided in sections 17302 and 17303 of title 40.

(b) PREMIUM WAIVERS.—With the approval of the President, the Secretary of Transportation