

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 111-281, §621(e)(2), substituted “September 30, 2020” for “September 30, 2010”.

2004—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 108-293 substituted “September 30, 2010” for “September 30, 2005”.

2002—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 107-295 substituted “September 30, 2005” for “September 30, 2000”.

1996—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-324 substituted “September 30, 2000” for “September 30, 1995”.

1989—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101-225 substituted “September 30, 1995” for “September 30, 1990”.

1984—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 98-557 substituted “on September 30, 1990” for “five years from the date of enactment of this Act”.

1982—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 97-322, §118(d)(1), required the Secretary, not less often than once a year, to publish notice in the Federal Register for solicitation of nominations for membership on the Committee.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 97-322, §118(d)(2), authorized the Committee to make available to Congress any information, advice, and recommendations which the Committee is authorized to give to the Secretary.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 97-322, §118(d)(3), inserted introductory provisions respecting compensation and travel expenses of members of the Committee.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 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.

§ 1232. Enforcement provisions

(a) Civil penalty

(1) Any person who is found by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, to have violated this chapter or a regulation issued hereunder shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty, not to exceed \$25,000 for each violation. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation. The amount of such civil penalty shall be assessed by the Secretary, or his designee, by written notice. In determining the amount of such penalty, the Secretary 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, ability to pay, and such other matters as justice may require.

(2) The Secretary may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, any civil penalty which is subject to imposition or which has been imposed under this section.

(3) If any person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty after it has become final, the Secretary may refer the matter to the Attorney General of the United States, for collection in any appropriate district court of the United States.

(b) Criminal penalty

(1) Any person who willfully and knowingly violates this chapter or any regulation issued hereunder commits a class D felony.

(2) Any person who, in the willfull¹ and knowing violation of this chapter or of any regulation issued hereunder, uses a dangerous weapon, or

engages in conduct that causes bodily injury or fear of imminent bodily injury to any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter or the regulations issued hereunder, commits a class C felony.

(c) In rem liability

Any vessel subject to the provisions of this chapter, which is used in violation of this chapter, or any regulations issued hereunder, shall be liable in rem for any civil penalty assessed pursuant to subsection (a) and may be proceeded against in the United States district court for any district in which such vessel may be found.

(d) Injunction

The United States district courts shall have jurisdiction to restrain violations of this chapter or of regulations issued hereunder, for cause shown.

(e) Denial of entry

Except as provided in section 1228 or 1232c of this title, the Secretary may, subject to recognized principles of international law, deny entry into the navigable waters of the United States or to any port or place under the jurisdiction of the United States to any vessel not in compliance with the provisions of this chapter or the regulations issued hereunder.

(f) Withholding of clearance

(1) If any owner, operator, or individual in charge of a vessel is liable for a 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 a penalty or fine under this section, the Secretary of the Treasury, upon the request of the Secretary, shall with respect to such vessel refuse or revoke any clearance required by section 60105 of title 46.

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

(Pub. L. 92-340, §13, as added Pub. L. 95-474, §2, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1478; amended Pub. L. 101-380, title IV, §4302(j), Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 539; Pub. L. 104-324, title III, §312(b), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3920; Pub. L. 115-44, title III, §315(b)(2), Aug. 2, 2017, 131 Stat. 949.)

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (f)(1), “section 60105 of title 46” substituted for “section 4197 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (46 App. U.S.C. 91)” on authority of Pub. L. 109-304, §18(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1709, which Act enacted section 60105 of Title 46, Shipping.

AMENDMENTS

2017—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 115-44 substituted “section 1228 or 1232c” for “section 1228”.

1996—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 104-324 amended heading and text of subsec. (f) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Secretary of the Treasury shall withhold or revoke, at the request of the Secretary, the clearance, required by section 91 of title 46, Appendix, of any vessel, the owner or operator of which is subject to any of the penalties in this section. Clearance may be granted in such cases upon the filing of a bond or other surety satisfactory to the Secretary.”

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

¹ So in original. Probably should be “willful”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 101-380, § 4302(j)(2), which directed the substitution of “commits a class C felony.” for “shall, in lieu of the penalties prescribed in paragraph (1), be fined not more than \$100,000, or imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.”, was executed by making the substitution for “shall, in lieu of the penalties prescribed in paragraph (1), be fined not more than \$100,000, or imprisoned for not more than ten 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 this title.

§ 1232a. Navigational hazards

(a) Reporting procedure

The Secretary shall establish a program to encourage fishermen and other vessel operators to report potential or existing navigational hazards involving pipelines to the Secretary through Coast Guard field offices.

(b) Secretary's response

(1) Upon notification by the operator of a pipeline of a hazard to navigation with respect to that pipeline, the Secretary shall immediately notify Coast Guard headquarters, the Office of Pipeline Safety, other affected Federal and State agencies, and vessel owners and operators in the pipeline's vicinity.

(2) Upon notification by any other person of a hazard or potential hazard to navigation with respect to a pipeline, the Secretary shall promptly determine whether a hazard exists, and if so shall immediately notify Coast Guard headquarters, the Office of Pipeline Safety, other affected Federal and State agencies, vessel owners and operators in the pipeline's vicinity, and the owner and operator of the pipeline.

(c) Establishment of standards

The Secretary shall, within six months after November 16, 1990, establish standards, for the purposes of this section, for what constitutes a hazard to navigation.

(d) “Pipelines” defined

For purposes of this section, the term “pipelines” has the meaning given the term “pipeline facilities” in section 60101(a)(18) of title 49.

(Pub. L. 92-340, § 14, as added Pub. L. 101-599, § 2, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3040.)

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (d), “section 60101(a)(18) of title 49” substituted for “the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 [49 App. U.S.C. 1671 et seq.] and the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979 [49 App. U.S.C. 2001 et seq.]” on authority of Pub. L. 103-272, § 6(b), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1378, the first section of which enacted subtitles II, III, and V to X of Title 49, Transportation.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 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.

§ 1232b. Requirement to notify Coast Guard of release of objects into the navigable waters of the United States

(a) Requirement

As soon as a person has knowledge of any release from a vessel or facility into the navigable waters of the United States of any object that creates an obstruction prohibited under section 403 of this title, such person shall notify the Secretary and the Secretary of the Army of such release.

(b) Restriction on use of notification

Any notification provided by an individual in accordance with subsection (a) may not be used against such individual in any criminal case, except a prosecution for perjury or for giving a false statement.

(Pub. L. 92-340, § 15, as added Pub. L. 109-241, title VI, § 602, July 11, 2006, 120 Stat. 553.)

§ 1232c. Prohibition on entry and operation

(a) Prohibition

(1) In general

Except as otherwise provided in this section, no vessel described in subsection (b) may enter or operate in the navigable waters of the United States or transfer cargo in any port or place under the jurisdiction of the United States.

(2) Limitations on application

(A) In general

The prohibition under paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to—

(i) a vessel described in subsection (b)(1), if the Secretary of State determines that—

(I) the vessel is owned or operated by or on behalf of a country the government of which the Secretary of State determines is closely cooperating with the United States with respect to implementing the applicable United Nations Security Council resolutions (as such term is defined in section 9202 of title 22); or

(II) it is in the national security interest not to apply the prohibition to such vessel; or

(ii) a vessel described in subsection (b)(2), if the Secretary of State determines that the vessel is no longer registered as described in that subsection.

(B) Notice

Not later than 15 days after making a determination under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate written notice of the determination and the basis upon which the determination was made.

(C) Publication

The Secretary of State shall publish a notice in the Federal Register of each determination made under subparagraph (A).