

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 100-333, §1, June 16, 1988, 102 Stat. 605, which provided that this chapter could be cited as the “Organotin Antifouling Paint Control Act of 1988”, was repealed by Pub. L. 111-281, title X, §1048, Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 3032.

**CHAPTER 38—DUMPING OF MEDICAL WASTE BY PUBLIC VESSELS**

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**§ 2501. Findings**

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The washing ashore of potentially infectious medical wastes from public vessels of the United States may pose serious and widespread risks to public health and to the welfare of coastal communities.

(2) Current Federal law provides inadequate protections against the disposal of such wastes from such vessels into ocean waters.

(3) Operators of such vessels must take immediate action to stop disposing of such wastes into ocean waters.

(Pub. L. 100-688, title III, §3102, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4152.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 100-688, title III, §3101, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4152, provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle A (§§3101-3105) of title III of Pub. L. 100-688, enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘United States Public Vessel Medical Waste Anti-Dumping Act of 1988’.”

**§ 2502. Definitions**

For the purposes of this chapter:

**(1) Potentially infectious medical waste**

The term “potentially infectious medical waste” includes isolation wastes; infectious agents; human blood and blood products; pathological wastes; sharps; body parts; contaminated bedding; surgical wastes; and other disposable medical equipment and material that may pose a risk to the public health, welfare or the marine environment.

**(2) Public vessel**

The term “public vessel” means a vessel of any type whatsoever (including hydrofoils, air-cushion vehicles, submersibles, floating craft whether propelled or not, and fixed or floating platforms) that is owned, or demise chartered, and operated by the United States Government, and is not engaged in commercial service.

(Pub. L. 100-688, title III, §3103, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4152.)

**§ 2503. Prohibition**

After 6 months after November 18, 1988, no public vessel shall dispose of potentially infectious medical waste into ocean waters unless—

(1)(A) the health or safety of individuals on board the vessel is threatened; or

(B) during time of war or a declared national emergency;

(2) the waste is disposed of beyond 50 nautical miles from the nearest land; and

(3)(A) in the case of a public vessel which is not a submersible, the waste is sterilized, properly packaged, and sufficiently weighted to prevent the waste from coming ashore after disposal; and

(B) in the case of a public vessel which is a submersible, the waste is properly packaged and sufficiently weighted to prevent the waste from coming ashore after disposal.

(Pub. L. 100-688, title III, §3104, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4152.)

**§ 2504. Guidance**

Not later than 3 months after November 18, 1988, the Secretary of Defense and the head of each affected agency, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall each issue guidance for public vessels under the jurisdiction of their agency regarding implementation of section 2503 of this title.

(Pub. L. 100-688, title III, §3105, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4153.)

**CHAPTER 39—SHORE PROTECTION FROM MUNICIPAL OR COMMERCIAL WASTE**

SUBCHAPTER I—SHORE PROTECTION

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SUBCHAPTER I—SHORE PROTECTION

**§ 2601. Definitions**

In this chapter—

(1) “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) “coastal waters” means—

(A) the territorial sea of the United States; (B) the Great Lakes and their connecting waters;

(C) the marine and estuarine waters of the United States up to the head of tidal influence; and

(D) the Exclusive Economic Zone as established by Presidential Proclamation Number 5030, dated March 10, 1983.

(3) “municipal or commercial waste” means solid waste (as defined in section 6903 of title 42) except—

(A) solid waste identified and listed under section 6921 of title 42;

(B) waste generated by the vessel during normal operations;

(C) debris solely from construction activities;

(D) sewage sludge subject to regulation under title I of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 [33 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.]; and

(E) dredged or fill material subject to regulation under title I of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 [33 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.], the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), or the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 401 et seq.).

(4) “person” means an individual, trust, firm, joint stock company, corporation (including a government corporation), partnership, association, State, municipality, commission, political subdivision of a State, or any interstate body.

(5) “receiving facility” means a facility or operation where municipal or commercial waste is unloaded from a vessel.

(6) “United States”, when used in a geographic sense, means the States of the United States, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

(7) “waste source” means a facility or vessel from which municipal or commercial waste is loaded onto a vessel, including any rolling stock or motor vehicles from which that waste is directly loaded.

(Pub. L. 100-688, title IV, §4101, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4154.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Presidential Proclamation Number 5030, referred to in par. (2)(D), is set out under section 1453 of Title 16, Conservation.

The Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, referred to in par. (3)(D) and (E), is Pub. L. 92-532, Oct. 23, 1972, 86 Stat. 1052, as amended. Title I of that Act is classified generally to subchapter I (§1411 et seq.) of chapter 27 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1401 of this title and Tables.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, referred to in par. (3)(E), is act June 30, 1948, ch. 758, as amended generally by Pub. L. 92-500, §2, Oct. 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 816, which is classified generally to chapter 26 (§1251 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1251 of this title and Tables.

The Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899, referred to in par. (3)(E), is act Mar. 3, 1899, ch. 425, 30 Stat. 1151, as amended, which enacted sections 401, 403, 404, 406 to 409, 411 to 416, 418, 502, 549, 686, and 687 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

#### SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 100-688, title IV, §4001, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4154, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Shore Protection Act of 1988’.”

#### TERRITORIAL SEA OF UNITED STATES

For extension of territorial sea of United States, see Proc. No. 5928, set out as a note under section 1331 of Title 43, Public Lands.

### § 2602. Vessel permits and numbers

#### (a) In general

A vessel (except a public vessel as defined in section 2101 of title 46) may not transport mu-

nicipal or commercial waste in coastal waters without—

(1) a permit for that vessel from the Secretary of Transportation; and

(2) displaying a number or other marking on the vessel as prescribed by the Secretary under chapter 123 or section 12502(b) of title 46.

#### (b) Permit applications

Application for a permit required by subsection (a) of this section shall be made by the vessel owner or operator and include—

(1) the name, address, and telephone number of the vessel owner and operator;

(2) the vessel’s name and identification number;

(3) the vessel’s area of operation;

(4) the vessel’s transport capacity;

(5) a history of the types of cargo transported by that vessel during the previous year, including identifying the type of municipal or commercial waste transported as—

(A) municipal waste;

(B) commercial waste;

(C) medical waste; or

(D) waste of another character.

(6) any other information the Secretary may require; and

(7) an acknowledgment.

#### (c) Effective date of permits

A permit issued under this section—

(1) is effective 30 days after the date on which it was issued;

(2) may be issued only for a period of not more than 5 years after the effective date of the permit;

(3) may be renewed for periods of not more than 5 years only by the vessel owner or operator that applied for the original permit; and

(4) is terminated when the vessel is sold.

#### (d) Denial of permits

The Secretary may, or at the request of the Administrator shall, deny the issuance of a permit for any vessel if the owner or operator of the vessel has a record of a pattern of serious violations of—

(1) this subchapter;

(2) the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.);

(3) the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 [16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq., 1447 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. 1401 et seq., 2801 et seq.];

(4) the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 401 et seq.); or

(5) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

#### (e) Permit decision

The Secretary, after consultation with the Administrator, shall issue or deny a vessel permit under this section within 30 days after receiving a complete application. On denying the issuance of the permit for a vessel the Secretary shall—

(1) notify the applicant of the denial and the reasons for the denial; and

(2) provide an opportunity for a hearing on the denial.

#### (f) Maintaining permit

##### (1) In general

The permit issued for a vessel under this chapter shall be maintained in a manner prescribed by the Secretary.