

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605, which provided that this chapter could be cited as the “Organotin Antifouling Paint Control Act of 1988”, was repealed by Pub.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**

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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;