

2681-617; Pub. L. 105-383, title IV, §§401(a)(1), 421, Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3424, 3439; Pub. L. 107-20, title II, §2202(a), July 24, 2001, 115 Stat. 168; Pub. L. 107-206, title I, §1103, Aug. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 884; Pub. L. 108-136, div. C, title XXXV, §3534(b)(1), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1818, originally derived from section 65b of former Title 46, Shipping, related to vessels eligible for documentation, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 109-304. See this section and sections 12103, 12111, and 12113 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 111-281 added subsec. (d).

REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 111-281, title IX, §901(c)(2), Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 3008, provided that: “The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, and after public notice and comment, promulgate regulations necessary and appropriate to implement this subsection [amending this section]. The Secretary may grant interim permits pending the issuance of such regulations upon receipt of applications containing the required information.”

§ 12103. General eligibility requirements

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided, a certificate of documentation for a vessel may be issued under this chapter only if the vessel is—

- (1) wholly owned by one or more individuals or entities described in subsection (b);
- (2) at least 5 net tons as measured under part J of this subtitle; and
- (3) not documented under the laws of a foreign country.

(b) ELIGIBLE OWNERS.—For purposes of subsection (a)(1), the following are eligible owners:

- (1) An individual who is a citizen of the United States.
- (2) An association, trust, joint venture, or other entity if—
  - (A) each of its members is a citizen of the United States; and
  - (B) it is capable of holding title to a vessel under the laws of the United States or a State.
- (3) A partnership if—
  - (A) each general partner is a citizen of the United States; and
  - (B) the controlling interest in the partnership is owned by citizens of the United States.
- (4) A corporation if—
  - (A) it is incorporated under the laws of the United States or a State;
  - (B) its chief executive officer, by whatever title, and the chairman of its board of directors are citizens of the United States; and
  - (C) no more of its directors are noncitizens than a minority of the number necessary to constitute a quorum.
- (5) The United States Government.
- (6) The government of a State.

(c) TEMPORARY CERTIFICATES PRIOR TO MEASUREMENT.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)(2), the Secretary may issue a temporary certificate of documentation for a vessel before it is measured.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §5, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1492.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
12103(a) .....	46:12102(a) (less ownership), (b) (1st sentence).	
12103(b) .....	46:12102(a) (related to ownership)	
12103(c) .....	46:12102(b) (last sentence).	

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 12103, Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 585; Pub. L. 100-710, title I, §104(a)(4), (6), Nov. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 4750; Pub. L. 101-225, title III, §301(a)(3), Dec. 12, 1989, 103 Stat. 1920; Pub. L. 102-388, title III, §348(c)(1), Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1554; Pub. L. 102-587, title V, §5213(a)(1), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5077; Pub. L. 107-295, title IV, §422(a), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2125, originally derived from section 65e of former Title 46, Shipping, related to certificates of documentation, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 109-304. See sections 12104, 12105, and 12133 of this title.

A prior section 12103a, added Pub. L. 107-295, title IV, §422(b)(1), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2125, related to issuance of temporary certificate of documentation by third parties, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 109-304. See section 12105 of this title.

§ 12104. Applications for documentation

(a) IN GENERAL.—An application for a certificate of documentation or endorsement under this chapter must be filed by the owner of the vessel. The application must be filed in the manner, be in the form, and contain the information prescribed by the Secretary.

(b) APPLICANT’S IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall require the applicant to provide—

- (1) if the applicant is an individual, the individual’s social security number; or
- (2) if the applicant is an entity—
  - (A) the entity’s taxpayer identification number; or
  - (B) if the entity does not have a taxpayer identification number, the social security number of an individual who is a corporate officer, general partner, or individual trustee of the entity and who signs the application.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §5, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1493.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
12104(a) .....	46:12103(a) (related to filing by owner), (b)(1).	
12104(b) .....	46:12103(b)(2).	

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 12104, Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 586; Pub. L. 99-36, §1(a)(7)(B), May 15, 1985, 99 Stat. 67; Pub. L. 101-225, title III, §301(a)(4), Dec. 12, 1989, 103 Stat. 1920, originally derived from section 65g of former Title 46, Shipping, related to effect of documentation, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 109-304. See section 12134 of this title.

§ 12105. Issuance of documentation

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in section 12152 of this title, the Secretary, on receipt of a