

§ 10908. Penalty for sending unseaworthy vessel to sea

A person that knowingly sends or attempts to send, or that is a party to sending or attempting to send, a vessel of the United States to sea, in an unseaworthy state that is likely to endanger the life of an individual, shall be fined not more than \$1,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 577.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 2 columns: Revised section, Source section (U.S. Code). Row 1: 10908, 46:658

Section 10908 provides a penalty for a person knowingly sending or attempting to send an unseaworthy vessel to sea.

CHAPTER 111—PROTECTION AND RELIEF

Sec.

- 11101. Accommodations for seamen.
11102. Medicine chests.
11103. Slop chests.
11104. Destitute seamen.
11105. Wages on discharge when vessel sold.
11106. Wages on justifiable complaint of seamen.
11107. Unlawful engagements void.
11108. Taxes.
11109. Attachment of wages.
11110. Seamen's clothing.
11111. Limit on amount recoverable on voyage.
11112. Master's lien for wages.
11113. Treatment of abandoned seafarers.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

- 2014—Pub. L. 113-281, title III, §320(b), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 3054, added item 11113.
1986—Pub. L. 99-307, §1(19)(A), May 19, 1986, 100 Stat. 446, added item 11112.

§ 11101. Accommodations for seamen

(a) On a merchant vessel of the United States the construction of which began after March 4, 1915 (except a yacht, pilot vessel, or vessel of less than 100 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title)—

- (1) each place appropriated to the crew of the vessel shall have a space of at least 120 cubic feet and at least 16 square feet, measured on the floor or deck of that place, for each seaman or apprentice lodged in the vessel;
(2) each seaman shall have a separate berth and not more than one berth shall be placed one above another;
(3) the place or berth shall be securely constructed, properly lighted, drained, heated, and ventilated, properly protected from weather and sea, and, as far as practicable, properly shut off and protected from the effluvia of cargo or bilge water; and
(4) crew space shall be kept free from goods or stores that are not the personal property of the crew occupying the place in use during the voyage.

(b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, a merchant vessel of the United States that in the ordinary course of trade makes a voyage of more than 3 days' duration between ports and carries a crew of at least 12 seamen shall have a hospital compartment, suitably separated from other spaces. The compartment shall have at least one bunk for each 12 seamen constituting the crew (but not more than 6 bunks may be required).

(c) A steam vessel of the United States operating on the Mississippi River or its tributaries shall provide, under the direction and approval of the Secretary, an appropriate place for the crew that shall conform to the requirements of this section, as far as they apply to the steam vessel, by providing a properly heated sleeping room in the engineroom of the steam vessel properly protected from the cold, wind, and rain by means of suitable awnings or screens on either side of the guards or sides and forward, reaching from the boiler deck to the lower or main deck.

(d) A merchant vessel of the United States, the construction of which began after March 4, 1915, having more than 10 seamen on deck, shall have at least one lighted, clean, and properly heated and ventilated washing place. There shall be provided at least one washing outfit for each 2 seamen of the watch. A separate washing place shall be provided for the fireroom and engineroom seamen, if their number is more than 10, that shall be large enough to accommodate at least one-sixth of them at the same time, and have a hot and cold water supply and a sufficient number of washbasins, sinks, and shower baths.

(e) Forecastsles shall be fumigated at intervals provided by regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, with the approval of the Secretary, and shall have at least 2 exits, one of which may be used in emergencies.

(f) The owner, charterer, managing operator, agent, master, or licensed individual of a vessel not complying with this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of at least \$50 but not more than \$500.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 577; Pub. L. 99-36, §1(a)(6), May 15, 1985, 99 Stat. 67; Pub. L. 104-324, title VII, §740, Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3942.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 2 columns: Revised section, Source section (U.S. Code). Row 1: 11101, 46:660-1

Section 11101 provides mandatory standards for crew accommodations and a penalty for noncompliance with those standards.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

- 1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-324 inserted "as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title" after "100 gross tons" in introductory provisions.
1985—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 99-36 substituted "lighted" for "light".

§ 11102. Medicine chests

(a) A vessel of the United States on a voyage from a port in the United States to a foreign port (except to a Canadian port), and a vessel of the United States of at least 75 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title on a voyage between a port of the United States on the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean, shall be provided with a medicine chest.

(b) The owner and master of a vessel not equipped as required by subsection (a) of this section or a regulation prescribed under subsection (a) are liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of \$500. If the offense was due to the fault of the owner, a master penalized under this section has the right to recover the penalty and costs from the owner.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 578; Pub. L. 104-324, title VII, §741, Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3942.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 2 columns: Revised section, Source section (U.S. Code). Rows: 11102(a) 46:666, 11102(b) 46:667

Section 11102 requires that a United States vessel on a foreign or intercoastal domestic voyage be equipped with a medicine chest, and provides a penalty for non-compliance. The Committee intends that regulation will provide for a well stocked medicine chest adequate for the crew of a vessel.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-324 inserted ‘‘as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title’’ after ‘‘75 gross tons’’.

§ 11103. Slop chests

(a) A vessel to which section 11102 of this title applies shall be provided with a slop chest containing sufficient clothing for the intended voyage for each seaman, including—

- (1) boots or shoes;
(2) hats or caps;
(3) underclothing;
(4) outer clothing;
(5) foul weather clothing;
(6) everything necessary for the wear of a seaman; and
(7) a complete supply of tobacco and blankets.

(b) Merchandise in the slop chest shall be sold to a seaman desiring it, for the use of the seaman, at a profit of not more than 10 percent of the reasonable wholesale value of the merchandise at the port at which the voyage began.

(c) This section does not apply to a vessel on a voyage to Canada, Bermuda, the West Indies, Mexico, or Central America, or a fishing or whaling vessel.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 578.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 2 columns: Revised section, Source section (U.S. Code). Row: 11103 46:670, 46:671

Section 11103 requires that a United States vessel on a foreign or intercoastal domestic voyage be equipped with a slop chest and lists the items the slop chest must contain.

§ 11104. Destitute seamen

(a) A consular officer shall provide, for a destitute seaman of the United States, subsistence and passage to a port of the United States in the most reasonable manner, at the expense of the United States Government and subject to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of State. A seaman, if able, shall be required to perform duties on the vessel giving the seaman passage, in accordance with the seaman’s rating.

(b) A master of a vessel of the United States bound to a port of the United States shall take a destitute seaman on board at the request of a consular officer and transport the seaman to the United States. A master refusing to transport a destitute seaman when requested is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of \$100. The certificate signed and sealed by a consular officer is prima facie evidence of refusal. A master is not required to carry a destitute seaman if the seaman’s presence would cause the number of individuals on board to exceed the number permitted in the certificate of inspection or if the seaman has a contagious disease.

(c) Compensation for the transportation of destitute seamen to the United States who are unable to work shall be agreed on by the master and the consular officer, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of State. However, the compensation may be not more than the lowest passenger rate of the vessel, or 2 cents a mile, whichever is less.

(d) When a master of a vessel of the United States takes on board a destitute seaman unable to work, from a port or place not having a consular officer, for transportation to the United States or to a port at which there is a consular officer, the master or owner of the vessel shall be compensated reasonably under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of State.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 578.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 2 columns: Revised section, Source section (U.S. Code). Rows: 11104(a) 46:678, 11104(b)-(d) 46:679

Section 11104 provides for the return to the United States of destitute seamen of the United States at the expense of the United States Government.

§ 11105. Wages on discharge when vessel sold

(a) When a vessel of the United States is sold in a foreign country, the master shall deliver to the consular officer a certified crew list and the agreement required by this part. The master shall pay each seaman the wages due the seaman and provide the seaman with employment on board another vessel of the United States bound for the port of original engagement of the