

withstanding such transfer Coast Guard shall operate as part of Navy in time of war or when President directs as provided in former section 3 (now 103) of Title 14, Coast Guard. See section 108 of Title 49, Transportation.

§ 56312. Documented defined

In sections 56309 through 56311, the term “documented” means, with respect to a vessel, that a certificate of documentation has been issued for the vessel under chapter 121.

(Added Pub. L. 115-91, div. C, title XXXV, §3504(d), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1913.)

**CHAPTER 565—ESSENTIAL VESSELS
AFFECTED BY NEUTRALITY ACT**

- Sec.
- 56501. Definition.
- 56502. Adjusting obligations and arranging maintenance.
- 56503. Types of adjustments and arrangements.
- 56504. Changes in adjustments and arrangements.

§ 56501. Definition

In this chapter, the term “essential vessel” means a vessel that is—

- (1)(A) security for a mortgage indebtedness to the United States Government; or
- (B) constructed under this subtitle or required by a contract under this subtitle to be operated on a certain essential foreign trade route; and
- (2) necessary in the interests of commerce and national defense to be maintained in condition for prompt use.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1656.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
56501	46 App.:1242a(a).	June 29, 1940, ch. 442, subdv. (a), 54 Stat. 684.

§ 56502. Adjusting obligations and arranging maintenance

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—On written application, the Secretary of Transportation may adjust obligations and arrange for maintenance of an essential vessel as provided in this chapter if the Secretary determines, after any investigation or proceeding the Secretary considers desirable, that—

- (1) the operation of the vessel in the service, route, or line to which it is assigned under this subtitle, or in which it otherwise would be operated, is not—
 - (A) lawful under the Neutrality Act of 1939 (22 U.S.C. 441 et seq.) or a proclamation issued under that Act; or
 - (B) compatible with maintaining the availability of the vessel for national defense and commerce;
- (2) it is not feasible under existing law to employ the vessel in any other service or operation in foreign or domestic trade (except temporary or emergency operation under section 56503(b)(5) of this title); and
- (3) the applicant, because of the restrictions of the Neutrality Act of 1939 (22 U.S.C. 441 et

seq.) or the withdrawal of vessels for national defense under paragraph (1), is not earning or will not earn a reasonable return on the capital necessarily employed in its business.

(b) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—Adjustments and arrangements under subsection (a) shall continue in effect only as long as the circumstances described in subsection (a) continue to exist. (Pub. L. 109-304, §8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1657.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
56502	46 App.:1242a(b), (e).	June 29, 1940, ch. 442, subdvs. (b), (e), 54 Stat. 684, 686; Pub. L. 97-31, §12(132), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 165.

The text of 46 App. U.S.C. 1242a(b) (1st sentence) is omitted as surplus. The text of 46 App. U.S.C. 1242a(e) is omitted as obsolete.

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Neutrality Act of 1939, referred to in subsec. (a)(1)(A), (3), is act Nov. 4, 1939, ch. 2, 54 Stat. 4, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§441 et seq.) of chapter 9 of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 441 of Title 22 and Tables.

§ 56503. Types of adjustments and arrangements

(a) SUSPENSION REQUIREMENTS.—An adjustment or arrangement under this chapter shall include suspension of—

- (1) the requirement to operate the vessel in foreign trade under the applicable operating-differential or construction-differential subsidy contract or mortgage or other agreement; and
- (2) the right to operating-differential subsidy for the vessel.

(b) DISCRETIONARY ADJUSTMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS.—To the extent the Secretary of Transportation considers appropriate to carry out the purposes of this subtitle, an adjustment or arrangement under this chapter may include any of the following:

- (1) Lay-up of the vessel by the owner or in the custody of the Secretary, with payment or reimbursement by the Secretary of necessary and proper expenses (including reasonable overhead and insurance) or a fixed periodic allowance instead of payment or reimbursement.
- (2) Postponement, for not more than the total period of the lay-up, of the maturity date of each installment of the principal of obligations to the United States Government for the vessel (regardless of whether the maturity date is during a lay-up period), or rearrangement of those maturities.
- (3) Postponement or cancellation of interest accruing on the obligations during a lay-up period.
- (4) Extension, for not more than the total period of the lay-up, of the 20-year life limitation for the vessel and other limitations and provisions of this subtitle based on a 20-year life.