

tered, or leased from the Secretary may be operated only under a certificate of documentation with a registry or coastwise endorsement. Such a vessel, while employed solely as a merchant vessel, is subject to the laws, regulations, and liabilities governing merchant vessels, whether the United States Government has an interest in the vessel as an owner or holds a mortgage, lien, or other interest.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1661.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
57109	46 App.:808(b).	Sept. 7, 1916, ch. 451, §9(b), 39 Stat. 730; July 15, 1918, ch. 152, §3, 40 Stat. 900; re-stated June 5, 1920, ch. 250, §18, 41 Stat. 994; Ex. Ord. No. 6166, §12, eff. June 10, 1933; June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title II, §204, title IX, §904, 49 Stat. 1987, 2016; Pub. L. 97-31, §12(26), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 155; Pub. L. 100-710, title I, §104(b)(2), Nov. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 4750.

The words “only under a certificate of documentation with a registry or coastwise endorsement” are substituted for “only under such registry or enrollment and license” for clarity and to use the appropriate current language.

§ 57111.¹ Salvage recoveries for subrogated ownership of vessels and cargoes

(a) SALVAGE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to enter into marine salvage agreements for the recoveries, sale, and disposal of sunken or damaged vessels, cargoes, or properties owned or insured by or on behalf of the Maritime Administration, the United States Shipping Board, the U.S. Shipping Bureau, the United States Maritime Commission, or the War Shipping Administration.

(b) MILITARY CRAFT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall consult with the Secretary of the military department concerned prior to engaging in or authorizing any activity under subsection (a) that will disturb sunken military craft, as such term is defined in section 1408(3) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-375; 10 U.S.C. 113 note).

(c) RECOVERIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the net proceeds from salvage agreements entered into as authorized in subsection (a) shall remain available until expended and be distributed as follows:

(1) Fifty percent shall be available to the Administrator of the Maritime Administration for the payment or reimbursement of expenses incurred by or on behalf of State maritime academies or the United States Merchant Marine Academy for facility and training ship maintenance, repair, and modernization, and for the purchase of simulators and fuel.

(2) The remainder shall be distributed for maritime heritage preservation to the Department of the Interior for grants as authorized by section 308703 of title 54.

(Added Pub. L. 116-92, div. C, title XXXV, §3509(a), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1977.)

¹No section 57110 has been enacted.

CHAPTER 573—VESSEL TRADE-IN PROGRAM

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57301.	Definitions.
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57308.	Use of vessels at least 25 years old.

§ 57301. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) NEW VESSEL.—The term “new vessel” means a vessel—

(A) constructed under this subtitle and acquired within 2 years after the date of completion; or

(B) constructed in a domestic shipyard on private account and not under this subtitle, and documented under the laws of the United States.

(2) OBSOLETE VESSEL.—The term “obsolete vessel” means a vessel that—

(A) is of at least 1,350 gross tons;

(B) the Secretary of Transportation believes should, because of its age, obsolescence, or other reasons, be replaced in the public interest; and

(C) has been owned by a citizen of the United States for at least 3 years immediately before its acquisition under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1662.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
57301	46 App.:1160(a).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title V, §510(a), as added Aug. 4, 1939, ch. 417, §7, 53 Stat. 1183; July 17, 1952, ch. 939, §7, 66 Stat. 762; Pub. L. 85-332, Feb. 20, 1958, 72 Stat. 17; Pub. L. 87-755, Oct. 5, 1962, 76 Stat. 751; Pub. L. 91-469, §12(a), Oct. 21, 1970, 84 Stat. 1022; Pub. L. 97-31, §12(91), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 161.

In paragraph (1)(A), the words “or is purchased under section 1204 of this Appendix, as amended, by the person turning in an obsolete vessel under this section” are omitted because the purchase authority under 46 App. U.S.C. 1204 was impliedly repealed by section 14 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 App. U.S.C. 1735 note).

§ 57302. Authority to acquire vessels

To promote the construction of new, safe, and efficient vessels to carry the domestic and foreign waterborne commerce of the United States, the Secretary of Transportation may acquire an obsolete vessel in exchange for an allowance of credit toward the cost of construction or purchase of a new vessel as provided in this chapter.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1662.)