

The words “find and”, “finding and”, “in whole or in part”, and “previously adopted” are omitted as unnecessary. The word “shall” is substituted for “is authorized and directed to” to eliminate unnecessary words.

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Merchant Marine Act, 1936, referred to in text, is act June 29, 1936, ch. 858, 49 Stat. 1985. Title V of the Act enacted provisions set out as a note under section 53101 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1936 Amendment note set out under section 101 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2016—Pub. L. 114-120 substituted “title V” for “titles V and VI”.

§ 57502. Construction, reconditioning, and remodeling of vessels

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation may have new vessels constructed, and have old vessels reconditioned or remodeled, as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the objectives of this subtitle.

(b) PLACE OF WORK.—Construction, reconditioning, and remodeling of vessels under subsection (a) shall take place in shipyards in the continental United States (including Alaska and Hawaii). However, if satisfactory contracts cannot be obtained from private shipbuilders, the Secretary may have the work done in navy yards.

(c) APPLICABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION-DIFFERENTIAL SUBSIDY PROVISIONS.—Contracts for the construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning of a vessel by a private shipbuilder under this chapter are subject to the provisions of title V of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, applicable to a contract with a private shipbuilder for the construction of a vessel under title V of that Act.

(Pub. L. 109-304, § 8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1664.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
57502(a), (b)	46 App.:1192.	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title VII, § 702, 49 Stat. 2008; Pub. L. 85-191, Aug. 28, 1957, 71 Stat. 471; Pub. L. 86-624, § 35(c), July 12, 1960, 74 Stat. 421; Pub. L. 97-31, § 12(104), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 162.
57502(c)	46 App.:1193(b).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title VII, § 703(b), 49 Stat. 2008.

In subsection (b), the words “for such new construction or reconstruction, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter” are omitted as unnecessary.

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Merchant Marine Act, 1936, referred to in subsection (c), is act June 29, 1936, ch. 858, 49 Stat. 1985. Title V of the Act enacted provisions set out as notes under section 53101 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1936 Amendment note set out under section 101 of this title and Tables.

§ 57503. Competitive bidding

(a) ADVERTISEMENT AND BIDDING.—The Secretary of Transportation may make a contract

with a private shipbuilder for the construction of a new vessel, or for the reconstruction or reconditioning of an existing vessel, only after due advertisement and upon sealed competitive bids.

(b) OPENING OF BIDS.—Bids required under this section shall be opened at the time and place stated in the advertisement for bids. All interested persons, including representatives of the press, shall be permitted to attend. The results of the bidding shall be publicly announced.

(Pub. L. 109-304, § 8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1665.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
57503(a)	46 App.:1193(a).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title VII, § 703(a), (c) (related to construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning), 49 Stat. 2008; Pub. L. 97-31, § 12(105), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 163.
57503(b)	46 App.:1193(c) (related to construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning).	

In subsection (b), the words “Bids required under this section” are substituted for “All bids required by the Secretary of Transportation for the construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning of vessels” to eliminate unnecessary words. The word “hour” is omitted as covered by “time”.

§ 57504. Charter or sale of vessels acquired by Department of Transportation

Vessels transferred to or otherwise acquired by the Department of Transportation in any manner may be chartered or sold by the Secretary of Transportation as provided in this chapter.

(Pub. L. 109-304, § 8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1665.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
57504	46 App.:1194.	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title VII, § 704, 49 Stat. 2008; Apr. 1, 1937, ch. 64, 50 Stat. 57; Pub. L. 97-31, § 12(106), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 163.

§ 57505. Employment of vessels on foreign trade routes

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall arrange for the employment of the Department of Transportation’s vessels in steamship lines on such trade routes, exclusively serving the foreign trade of the United States, as the Secretary determines are essential for the development and maintenance of the commerce of the United States and the national defense. However, the Secretary shall first determine that those routes are not being adequately served by existing steamship lines privately owned and operated by citizens of the United States and documented under the laws of the United States.

(b) POLICY TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE OPERATION.—The Secretary shall have a policy of encouraging private operation of each essential steamship line now owned by the United States Government by—

- (1) selling the line to a citizen of the United States; or
- (2) demising the Secretary's vessels on bareboat charter to citizens of the United States who agree to maintain the line in the manner provided in this chapter.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1665.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
57505(a)	46 App.:1195 (1st sentence).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title VII, §705 (1st, 2d sentences), 49 Stat. 2009; Pub. L. 97-31, §12(107), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 163.
57505(b)	46 App.:1195 (2d sentence).	

In subsection (a), the words "As soon as practicable after June 29, 1936, and continuing thereafter" are omitted as obsolete. The words "However, the Secretary shall first determine that those routes are not being adequately served" are substituted for "Provided, That such needs are not being adequately served" for clarity and because provisos are disfavored in modern drafting.

In subsection (b)(1), the words "in the manner provided in section 7 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920 [46 App. U.S.C. 866], and in strict accordance with the provisions of section 5 of said Act" are omitted because section 5 of that Act was repealed in 1988, and section 7 is being repealed as obsolete by this bill without being restated.

§ 57506. Minimum selling price of vessels

(a) IN GENERAL.—A vessel constructed under this subtitle or the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, may not be sold by the Secretary of Transportation for less than the price specified in this section.

(b) OPERATION IN FOREIGN TRADE.—If the vessel is to be operated in foreign trade, the minimum price is the estimated foreign construction cost (exclusive of national defense features) determined as of the date the construction contract is executed, less depreciation under subsection (d).

(c) OPERATION IN DOMESTIC TRADE.—If the vessel is to be operated in domestic trade, the minimum price is the cost of construction in the United States (exclusive of national defense features), less depreciation under subsection (d).

(d) DEPRECIATION.—Depreciation under subsections (b) and (c) shall be based on—

- (1) a 25-year life for dry-cargo and passenger vessels; and
- (2) a 20-year life for tankers and other bulk liquid carrier vessels.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1665.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
57506	46 App.:1195 (last sentence).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title VII, §705 (last sentence), as added Aug. 4, 1939, ch. 417, §11(a), 53 Stat. 1185; Pub. L. 86-518, §1, June 12, 1960, 74 Stat. 216; Pub. L. 97-31, §12(107), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 163.
	46 App.:1125 note.	Pub. L. 86-518, §9, June 12, 1960, 74 Stat. 217.

Subsection (d) is substituted for "less depreciation based on a twenty-five year life" because of section 9 of

Public Law 86-518 (June 12, 1960, 74 Stat. 217), which provided that "Nothing in any amendment made by this Act [including section 1 substituting 'twenty-five' for 'twenty' in 46 App. U.S.C. 1195] shall operate or be interpreted to change from twenty to twenty-five years the provisions of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended, relating to the commercial expectancy or period of depreciation of any tanker or other liquid bulk carrier."

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Merchant Marine Act, 1936, referred to in subsec. (a), is act June 29, 1936, ch. 858, 49 Stat. 1985, which was classified principally to chapter 27 (§1101 et seq.) of the former Appendix to this title. The Act, with the exception of title V, most of title VI, and sections 301, 801, 802, 809(a), and 909 thereof, was repealed and restated, mainly in this subtitle, by Pub. L. 109-304, §§8, 19, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1555, 1710. Title V and sections 301 and 909 of the Act are set out as notes under section 53101 of this title. Those portions of title VI not repealed by Pub. L. 109-304 and sections 802 and 809(a) of the Act were repealed by Pub. L. 114-120, title III, §313(a), Feb. 8, 2016, 130 Stat. 58. Section 801 of the Act was transferred to section 57522 of this title by Pub. L. 114-120, title III, §313(c)(1)(A), Feb. 8, 2016, 130 Stat. 58. For complete classification of the Act to the Code, see Tables. For disposition of sections of the former Appendix to Title 46, see Disposition Table preceding section 101 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER II—CHARTERS

§ 57511. Demise charters

A charter by the Secretary of Transportation under this chapter shall demise the vessel to the charterer subject to all usual conditions contained in a bareboat charter. The charter shall be for a term the Secretary considers to be in the best interest of the United States Government and the merchant marine.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(c), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1666.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
57511	46 App.:1201.	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title VII, §711, 49 Stat. 2010; Pub. L. 97-31, §12(113), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 163.

The words "for a term the Secretary considers to be" are substituted for "until January 1, 1940, shall be for terms of three years or less as the Secretary of Transportation may decide: *Provided*, That after January 1, 1940, charters may be executed by the Secretary of Transportation for such terms as the experience gained by the Secretary of Transportation shall indicate are" to eliminate unnecessary and obsolete words.

§ 57512. Competitive bidding

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation may charter a vessel of the Department of Transportation to a private operator only on the basis of competitive sealed bidding. The bids must be submitted in strict compliance with the terms and conditions of a public advertisement soliciting the bids.

(b) ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS.—An advertisement for bids shall state—

- (1) the number, type, and tonnage of the vessels being offered for bareboat charter for operation as a steamship line on a designated trade route;