

In subsection (b)(4)(D), the words “are to be inspected and copied” are substituted for “for access to and examination” for consistency.

In subsection (b)(4)(E), the words “in any other situations where” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(2)(A), the words “from whose possession or” are substituted for “from whom or from whose” for clarity.

In subsection (c)(3), the words “shall file the warrant, proof of service, and all documents filed about the warrant” are substituted for “shall attach to the warrant a copy of the return and all papers filed in connection therewith and shall file them” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “United States district court” are substituted for “district court of the United States” for consistency with the definition in section 32101 of the revised title and with other provisions of the chapter.

CHANGE OF NAME

Reference to United States magistrate or to magistrate deemed to refer to United States magistrate judge pursuant to section 321 of Pub. L. 101-650, set out as a note under section 631 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

§ 32708. Confidentiality of information

(a) GENERAL.—Information obtained by the Secretary of Transportation under this chapter related to a confidential matter referred to in section 1905 of title 18 may be disclosed only—

- (1) to another officer or employee of the United States Government for use in carrying out this chapter; or
- (2) in a proceeding under this chapter.

(b) WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM CONGRESS.—This section does not authorize information to be withheld from a committee of Congress authorized to have the information.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1054.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32708	15:1990d(d).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, 86 Stat. 947, §414(d); added July 14, 1976, Pub. L. 94-364, §408(2), 90 Stat. 987.

In subsection (a), before clause (1), the words “reported to or otherwise” and “or his representative” are omitted as surplus. The words “related to a confidential matter referred to” are substituted for “contains or relates to a trade secret or other matter referred to” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “shall be considered confidential for the purpose of that section” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), the words “a committee of Congress authorized to have the information” are substituted for “the duly authorized committees of the Congress” for clarity.

§ 32709. Penalties and enforcement

(a) CIVIL PENALTY.—(1) A person that violates this chapter or a regulation prescribed or order issued under this chapter is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each violation. A separate violation occurs for each motor vehicle or device involved in the violation. The maximum penalty under this subsection for a related series of violations is \$1,000,000.

(2) The Secretary of Transportation shall impose a civil penalty under this subsection. The

Attorney General shall bring a civil action to collect the penalty. Before referring a penalty claim to the Attorney General, the Secretary may compromise the amount of the penalty. Before compromising the amount of the penalty, the Secretary shall give the person charged with a violation an opportunity to establish that the violation did not occur.

(3) In determining the amount of a civil penalty under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider—

- (A) the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation;
- (B) with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior violations, the ability to pay, and any effect on the ability to continue doing business; and
- (C) other matters that justice requires.

(b) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—A person that knowingly and willfully violates this chapter or a regulation prescribed or order issued under this chapter shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 3 years, or both. If the person is a corporation, the penalties of this subsection also apply to a director, officer, or individual agent of a corporation who knowingly and willfully authorizes, orders, or performs an act in violation of this chapter or a regulation prescribed or order issued under this chapter without regard to penalties imposed on the corporation.

(c) CIVIL ACTIONS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action to enjoin a violation of this chapter or a regulation prescribed or order issued under this chapter. The action may be brought in the United States district court for the judicial district in which the violation occurred or the defendant is found, resides, or does business. Process in the action may be served in any other judicial district in which the defendant resides or is found. A subpoena for a witness in the action may be served in any judicial district.

(d) CIVIL ACTIONS BY STATES.—(1) When a person violates this chapter or a regulation prescribed or order issued under this chapter, the chief law enforcement officer of the State in which the violation occurs may bring a civil action—

- (A) to enjoin the violation; or
- (B) to recover amounts for which the person is liable under section 32710 of this title for each person on whose behalf the action is brought.

(2) An action under this subsection may be brought in an appropriate United States district court or in a State court of competent jurisdiction. The action must be brought not later than 2 years after the claim accrues.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1054; Pub. L. 112-141, div. C, title I, §31206(1), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 761.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32709(a)	15:1988(b) (related to violating rules).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, §408(b) (related to violating rules), 86 Stat. 963; restated July 14, 1976, Pub. L. 94-364, §406, 90 Stat. 983.