

the customary or legally established rates in the States in which the pilotage is performed.

(c) A State or political subdivision of a State may not impose on a pilot licensed under this subtitle an obligation to procure a State or other license, or adopt any other regulation that will impede the pilot in the performance of the pilot's duties under the laws of the United States.

(d) A State or political subdivision of a State may not levy pilot charges on a vessel lawfully piloted by a pilot required under this section.

(e) The owner, charterer, managing operator, agent, master, or individual in charge of a vessel operated in violation of this section or a regulation prescribed under this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of \$10,000. The vessel also is liable in rem for the penalty.

(f) An individual serving as a pilot without having a license required by this section or a regulation prescribed under this section is liable to the Government for a civil penalty of \$10,000.

(g)(1) The Secretary shall designate by regulation the areas of the approaches to and waters of Prince William Sound, Alaska, if any, on which a vessel subject to this section is not required to be under the direction and control of a pilot licensed under section 7101 of this title.

(2) In any area of Prince William Sound, Alaska, where a vessel subject to this section is required to be under the direction and control of a pilot licensed under section 7101 of this title, the pilot may not be a member of the crew of that vessel and shall be a pilot licensed by the State of Alaska who is operating under a Federal license, when the vessel is navigating waters between 60°49' North latitude and the Port of Valdez, Alaska.

(h) The Secretary shall designate waters on which tankers over 1,600 gross tons subject to this section shall have on the bridge a master or mate licensed to direct and control the vessel under section 7101(c)(1) of this title who is separate and distinct from the pilot required under subsection (a) of this section.

(i)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a dredge to which this section would otherwise apply is exempt from the requirements of this section.

(2) If the Secretary determines, after notice and comment, that the exemption under paragraph (1) creates a hazard to navigational safety in a specified area, the Secretary may require that a dredge exempted by paragraph (1) which is operating in that area shall comply with this section.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 553; Pub. L. 98-557, §29(f)(1), (2), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2874; Pub. L. 99-307, §1(13), May 19, 1986, 100 Stat. 446; Pub. L. 101-380, title IV, §§4116(a), (b), 4302(g), Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 522, 539; Pub. L. 101-595, title III, §307, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2985; Pub. L. 105-383, title III, §301(b)(7), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3417.)

Section 8502 sets forth the provisions and requirements for pilots licensed under section 7101. It is an exception provided by law envisioned under section 8501(a).

Subsection (a) applies the requirement for a Federal pilot to coastwise seagoing vessels if propelled by machinery and inspected under part B or if inspected under chapter 37, including a tank barge. The section has been carefully worded to clearly set out those vessels that are required at times to have a Federal pilot.

Subsection (b) prohibits Federal pilot fees from being higher than those required for State pilots. Subsections (c) and (d) prohibit States from imposing impediments to the proper performance of, or levying charges related to, Federal pilotage.

Subsections (e) and (f) prescribe civil penalties for violation of this section.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 105-383 substituted “not beyond 3 nautical miles from the baselines from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured” for “not on the high seas”.

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-595, §307(1), substituted “subsections (g) and (i)” for “subsection (g)” in introductory provisions.

Subsecs. (e), (f). Pub. L. 101-380, §4302(g), substituted “\$10,000” for “\$500”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 101-380, §4116(a), amended subsec. (g) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (g) read as follows: “The Secretary shall designate by regulation the areas of the approaches to and waters of Prince William Sound, Alaska, on which a vessel subject to this section is not required to be under the direction and control of a pilot licensed under section 7101 of this title.”

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 101-380, §4116(b), added subsec. (h).

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 101-595, §307(2), added subsec. (i).

1986—Subsec. (a)(4)(A). Pub. L. 99-307 substituted “part” for “Part”.

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-557, §29(f)(1), amended subsec. (a) generally, which prior to amendment read as follows: “A coastwise seagoing vessel, when not sailing on register and when underway (except on the high seas), shall be under the direction and control of a pilot licensed under section 7101 of this title if the vessel is—

“(1) propelled by machinery and subject to inspection under part B of this subtitle; or

“(2) subject to inspection under chapter 37 of this title.”

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 98-557, §29(f)(2), added subsec. (g).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-380 applicable to incidents occurring after Aug. 18, 1990, see section 1020 of Pub. L. 101-380, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2701 of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters.

Executive Documents

TERRITORIAL SEA OF UNITED STATES

For extension of territorial sea of United States, see Proc. No. 5928, set out as a note under section 1331 of Title 43, Public Lands.

§ 8503. Federal pilots authorized

(a) The Secretary may require a pilot licensed under section 7101 of this title on a self-propelled vessel when a pilot is not required by State law and the vessel is—

- (1) engaged in foreign commerce; and
- (2) operating—

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source section (U.S. Code)
8502	46:215 46:364 46:391a 46:497

- (A) in internal waters of the United States; or
- (B) within 3 nautical miles from the base-lines from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured.

(b) A requirement prescribed under subsection (a) of this section is terminated when the State having jurisdiction over the area involved—

- (1) establishes a requirement for a State licensed pilot; and
- (2) notifies the Secretary of that fact.

(c) For the Saint Lawrence Seaway, the Secretary may not delegate the authority under this section to an agency except the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

(d) A person violating this section or a regulation prescribed under this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000. Each day of a continuing violation is a separate violation. The vessel also is liable in rem for the penalty.

(e) A person that knowingly violates this section or a regulation prescribed under this section commits a class D felony.

(Added Pub. L. 98-557, §29(f)(3)(A), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2874; amended Pub. L. 101-380, title IV, §4302(h), Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 539; Pub. L. 105-383, title III, §301(b)(8), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3417; Pub. L. 116-260, div. AA, title V, §512(c)(6)(C), Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 2757.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2020—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-260 substituted “Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation” for “Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation”.

1998—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 105-383 added par. (2) and struck out former par. (2) which read as follows: “operating on the navigable waters of the United States.”

1990—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101-380 substituted “commits a class D felony” for “shall be fined not more than \$50,000, imprisoned for not more than five years, or both”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-380 applicable to incidents occurring after Aug. 18, 1990, see section 1020 of Pub. L. 101-380, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2701 of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters.

Executive Documents

TERRITORIAL SEA OF UNITED STATES

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CHAPTER 87—UNLICENSED PERSONNEL

Sec.	
8701.	Merchant mariners' documents required.
8702.	Certain crew requirements.
8703.	Tankermen on tank vessels.
8704.	Alien deemed to be employed in the United States.

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Chapter 87 prescribes certain requirements for unlicensed personnel on vessels of at least 100 gross tons and on certain tank vessels.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1988—Pub. L. 100-239, §5(f)(2), Jan. 11, 1988, 101 Stat. 1781, added item 8704.

§ 8701. Merchant mariners' documents required

(a) This section applies to a merchant vessel of at least 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 except—

- (1) a vessel operating only on rivers and lakes (except the Great Lakes);
- (2) a barge (except a seagoing barge or a barge to which chapter 37 of this title applies);
- (3) a fishing, fish tender, or whaling vessel or a yacht;
- (4) a sailing school vessel with respect to sailing school instructors and sailing school students;

(5) an oceanographic research vessel with respect to scientific personnel;

(6) a fish processing vessel entered into service before January 1, 1988, and not more than 1,600 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 or entered into service after December 31, 1987, and having not more than 16 individuals on board primarily employed in the preparation of fish or fish products;

(7) a fish processing vessel (except a vessel to which clause (6) of this subsection applies) with respect to individuals on board primarily employed in the preparation of fish or fish products or in a support position not related to navigation;

(8) a mobile offshore drilling unit with respect to individuals, other than crew members required by the certificate of inspection, engaged on board the unit for the sole purpose of carrying out the industrial business or function of the unit;

(9) a passenger vessel not engaged in a foreign voyage with respect to individuals on board employed for a period of not more than 30 service days within a 12 month period as entertainment personnel, with no duties, including emergency duties, related to the navigation of the vessel or the safety of the vessel, its crew, cargo or passengers; and

(10) the Secretary may prescribe the individuals required to hold a merchant mariner's document serving onboard an oil spill response vessel.

(b) A person may not engage or employ an individual, and an individual may not serve, on board a vessel to which this section applies if the individual does not have a merchant mariner's document issued to the individual under section 7302 of this title. Except for an individual required to be licensed or registered under this part, the document must authorize service in the capacity for which the holder of the document is engaged or employed.

(c) On a vessel to which section 10306 or 10503 of this title does not apply, an individual required by this section to hold a merchant mari-