

§ 80503. General authority of the Secretary

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall carry out the Convention and this chapter in the United States.

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this chapter. The regulations shall—

(1) establish procedures for testing, inspecting, and initially approving containers and designs for containers, including procedures for attaching, invalidating, and removing safety approval plates for containers;

(2) establish procedures to be followed by the owners of containers for the periodic examination of containers as provided in the Convention; and

(3) provide a method for developing, collecting, and disseminating information about container safety and the international transport of containers.

(c) SAFETY APPROVAL PLATES.—If the owner of a container without a safety approval plate establishes that the container satisfies the standards of the Convention, the Secretary may authorize a safety approval plate to be attached to the container.

(d) SCHEDULE OF FEES.—The Secretary may prescribe a schedule of fees for services performed by the Secretary, or by a person delegated authority under section 80506 of this title, for the testing, inspection, and initial approval of containers and container designs.

(e) ENCOURAGING INTERMODAL TRANSPORT.—To the maximum extent possible, the Secretary shall encourage the development and use of intermodal transport, using containers built to facilitate economical, safe, and expeditious handling of containerized cargo without intermediate reloading when it is being transported over land, air, and sea areas.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §11, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1694.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
80503(a)	46 App.:1503(a).	Pub. L. 95-208, §4(a), (b), (c)(1), (3), (e), Dec. 13, 1977, 91 Stat. 1476, 1477.
80503(b)	46 App.:1503(b).	
80503(c)	46 App.:1503(c)(1).	
80503(d)	46 App.:1503(c)(3).	
80503(e)	46 App.:1503(e).	

In subsection (a), the words “On and after the date the instrument of ratification is deposited by the United States in accordance with the provisions of article VII of the Convention,” and “and, unless an earlier date is specifically provided,” are omitted as obsolete.

In subsection (b), before paragraph (1), the words “as soon as practicable after December 13, 1977” are omitted as obsolete. The word “prescribe” is substituted for “promulgate, and from time to time, amend” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code and to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “he deems necessary for such enforcement” and “among other things” are omitted as unnecessary. In paragraph (1), the words “existing” and “new” are omitted as obsolete.

In subsections (c) and (d), the words “At any time after December 13, 1977” are omitted as obsolete.

§ 80504. Approval and examination

(a) DOMICILE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE IN UNITED STATES.—A container owner domiciled and hav-

ing its principal office in the United States shall have the container—

(1) approved initially under procedures prescribed by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating or by the government of another country that is a party to the Convention; and

(2) examined periodically as provided in the Convention under procedures prescribed by the Secretary.

(b) DOMICILE OR PRINCIPAL OFFICE IN UNITED STATES.—A container owner domiciled or having its principal office in the United States shall have the container—

(1) approved initially under procedures prescribed by the Secretary or by the government of another country that is a party to the Convention; and

(2) examined periodically as provided in the Convention, under procedures prescribed by the government of the country in which the owner is domiciled or has its principal office, as long as that country is a party to the Convention.

(c) NEITHER DOMICILE NOR PRINCIPAL OFFICE IN UNITED STATES.—A container owner neither domiciled nor having its principal office in the United States or another country that is a party to the Convention may submit a container for initial approval and periodic examination under procedures prescribed by the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §11, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1695.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
80504.	46 App.:1502(a) (related to approval and examination).	Pub. L. 95-208, §3(a) (related to approval and examination), Dec. 13, 1977, 91 Stat. 1476.

In this section, the words “Beginning on the date the instrument of ratification is deposited by the United States in accordance with the provisions of article VII of the Convention, for new containers, and beginning on September 6, 1982, for existing containers” are omitted as obsolete.

In subsections (a)(1) and (b)(1), the words “government of another country that is a party to the Convention” are substituted for “administration of another contracting party to the Convention” for clarity.

In subsection (c), the word “initial” is added for consistency in the section.

§ 80505. Enforcement

(a) IN GENERAL.—To enforce the Convention, this chapter, and regulations prescribed under this chapter, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may—

(1) examine, or require to be examined, containers in international transport;

(2) approve designs for containers;

(3) inspect and test containers being manufactured;

(4) issue a detention order removing or excluding a container from service until the container owner satisfies the Secretary that the container meets the standards of the Convention, if the container—

(A) does not have a safety approval plate attached to it; or

(B) has a safety approval plate attached but there is significant evidence that the

container is in a condition that creates an obvious risk to safety;

(5) take other appropriate action, including issuing necessary orders, to remove a container from service or restrict its use if the container is not in compliance with the Convention, this chapter, or regulations prescribed under this chapter, but does not present an obvious risk to safety; and

(6) allow a container found to be unsafe or without a safety approval plate to be moved to another location for repair or other disposition, under restrictions consistent with the intent of the Convention.

(b) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—

(1) EXAMINATION.—The owner of a container involved in an action by the Secretary under this section related to an examination of the container shall pay or reimburse the Secretary for the expenses arising from that action, except for the costs of routine examinations of the container or a safety approval plate.

(2) TESTING, INSPECTION, AND INITIAL APPROVAL.—The owner of a container submitted to the procedure established by the Secretary for testing, inspection, and initial approval, and the manufacturer of a container that submits a design to the procedure established by the Secretary for testing, inspection, and initial approval, shall pay or reimburse the Secretary for the expenses arising from the testing, inspection, or approval.

(3) CREDIT TO APPROPRIATION.—Amounts received by the Secretary as reimbursement shall be credited to the appropriation for operations and support of the Coast Guard.

(c) PRESUMPTION BASED ON SAFETY APPROVAL PLATE.—A container bearing a safety approval plate authorized by a country that is a party to the Convention is presumed to be in a safe condition unless there is significant evidence that the container is in a condition that creates an obvious risk to safety.

(d) NOTICE OF ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—When the Secretary issues a detention or other order under this section, the Secretary promptly shall notify in writing—

- (A) the owner of the container;
- (B) the owner’s agent; or
- (C) if the identity of the owner is not apparent from the container or shipping documents, the custodian.

(2) INFORMATION TO INCLUDE.—The notification shall identify the container involved, give the location of the container, and describe the condition or situation giving rise to the order.

(e) DURATION OF ORDERS.—An order issued by the Secretary under this section remains in effect until—

- (1) the Secretary declares the container to be in compliance with the standards of the Convention; or
- (2) the container is removed permanently from service.

(f) NOTICE OF DEFECTIVE CONTAINER TO COUNTRY ISSUING SAFETY APPROVAL PLATE.—If the

Secretary has reason to believe that a container bearing a safety approval plate issued by another country was defective at the time of approval, the Secretary shall notify that country.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §11, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1695; Pub. L. 116-283, div. G, title LVXXXV [LXXXV], §8513(b), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4761.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
80505	46 App.:1504.	Pub. L. 95-208, §5, Dec. 13, 1977, 91 Stat. 1477; Pub. L. 97-249, §1(2), Sept. 8, 1982, 96 Stat. 708.

In subsection (a), before paragraph (1), the words “On and after the date the instrument of ratification is deposited by the United States in accordance with the provisions of article VII of the Convention” are omitted as obsolete. The words “and regulations prescribed under this chapter” are added for clarity. In paragraph (1), the words “new . . . and existing containers which are subject to this chapter” are omitted as obsolete. Paragraphs (2) and (3) are substituted for “test, inspect, and approve designs for new containers and new containers being manufactured” to eliminate unnecessary words. In paragraph (4), before subparagraph (A), the words “is subject to this chapter” are omitted as unnecessary. In subparagraph (A), the word “valid” is omitted as unnecessary. In paragraph (5), the words “or regulations prescribed under this chapter” are added for consistency. In paragraph (6), the word “valid” is omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (b)(3), the words “appropriation for the operating expenses of the Coast Guard” are substituted for “appropriations bearing the cost thereof” for clarity.

In subsection (d)(2), the word “reasonably” is omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (e), the words “which first occurs” are omitted as unnecessary. In paragraph (1), the words “the Secretary declares” are substituted for “is declared by the Secretary, or under regulations promulgated by the Secretary” to eliminate unnecessary words.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 116-283 substituted “operations and support” for “operating expenses”.

§ 80506. Delegation of authority

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may delegate to any person, including a public or private agency or nonprofit organization, authority to grant initial approval for containers and designs and to attach safety approval plates.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Before making a delegation under this section, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations establishing—

- (1) criteria to be followed in selecting a person to whom authority is to be delegated;
- (2) a detailed description of the duties and powers to be carried out by the person to whom authority is delegated, including the records the person shall keep; and
- (3) the review the Secretary will conduct to decide whether the person is carrying out the delegated duties and powers properly.

(c) INSPECTION OF RECORDS.—A person delegated authority under this section shall make