

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i> | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 12133 | 46:12103(e). 46 App.:277. | R.S. §4336; Aug. 5, 1935, ch. 438, title III, §312, 49 Stat. 528; Pub. L. 85-237, §2, Aug. 30, 1957, 71 Stat. 518; Pub. L. 103-182, title VI, §686(a)(5), Dec. 8, 1993, 107 Stat. 2220. |

This section consolidates and clarifies the requirements contained in the source provisions. The specific civil penalties are omitted as unnecessary because of the general civil penalty in section 12151(a) of the revised title. See also 19 U.S.C. 1581.

§ 12134. Evidentiary uses of documentation

A certificate of documentation is—

- (1) conclusive evidence of nationality for international purposes, but not in a proceeding conducted under the laws of the United States;
- (2) conclusive evidence of qualification to engage in a specified trade; and
- (3) not conclusive evidence of ownership in a proceeding in which ownership is in issue.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §5, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1506.)

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|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 12134 | 46:12104. | |

§ 12135. Invalidation of certificates of documentation

A certificate of documentation or an endorsement on the certificate is invalid if the vessel for which it is issued—

- (1) no longer meets the requirements of this chapter and regulations prescribed under this chapter applicable to the certificate or endorsement; or
- (2) is placed under the command of an individual not a citizen of the United States in violation of section 12131 of this title.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §5, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1506.)

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| 12135 | 46:12111(a). | |

In paragraph (2), the words “except for a recreational endorsement” are omitted as unnecessary because a recreational endorsement does not permit a vessel to engage in a trade.

§ 12136. Surrender of certificates of documentation

(a) SURRENDER.—An invalid certificate of documentation, or a certificate with an invalid endorsement, shall be surrendered as provided by regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

(b) CONDITIONS FOR SURRENDER.—

(1) VESSELS OVER 1,000 TONS.—The Secretary may condition approval of the surrender of the certificate of documentation for a vessel over 1,000 gross tons.

(2) VESSELS COVERED BY MORTGAGE.—The Secretary may approve the surrender of the

certificate of documentation of a vessel covered by a mortgage filed or recorded under section 31321 of this title only if the mortgagee consents.

(3) NOTICE OF LIEN.—The Secretary may not refuse to approve the surrender of the certificate of documentation for a vessel solely on the basis that a notice of a claim of a lien on the vessel has been recorded under section 31343(a) of this title.

(c) CONTINUED APPLICATION OF CERTAIN LAWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), until the certificate of documentation is surrendered with the approval of the Secretary, a documented vessel is deemed to continue to be documented under this chapter for purposes of—

(A) chapter 313 of this title for an instrument filed or recorded before the date of invalidation and an assignment after that date;

(B) sections 56101 and 56102(a)(2) and chapter 563 of this title; and

(C) any other law of the United States identified by the Secretary by regulation as a law to which the Secretary applies this subsection.

(2) EXCEPTION.—This subsection does not apply when a vessel is forfeited or sold by order of a district court of the United States.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §5, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1506.)

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| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i> | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 12136(a) | 46:12111(b). | |
| 12136(b)(1) .. | 46:12111(d)(2). | |
| 12136(b)(2) .. | 46:12111(c)(3). | |
| 12136(b)(3) .. | 46:12111(d)(1). | |
| 12136(c)(1) .. | 46:12111(c)(1). | |
| 12136(c)(2) .. | 46:12111(c)(2). | |

In subsection (a), the words “or a certificate with an invalid endorsement” are added for clarity.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

DOCUMENTATION SURRENDER AND INVALIDATION

Pub. L. 101-225, title III, §301(b), Dec. 12, 1989, 103 Stat. 1922, provided that: “Section 12111(c)(3) [now section 12136(b)(2)] of title 46, United States Code, does not apply to a mortgage that—

“(1) was filed or recorded before January 1, 1989; and

“(2) was not a preferred mortgage (as that term is defined in section 31301(6) of that title) on that date.”

§ 12137. Recording of vessels built in the United States

The Secretary may provide for recording and certifying information about vessels built in the United States that the Secretary considers to be in the public interest.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §5, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1507.)

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|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 12137 | 46:12117. | |