

Maritime Administration, DOT

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(b) *Appeals of administrative determinations—(1) Policy.* An operator who disagrees with the findings, interpretations or decisions of the Contracting Officer with respect to the administration of this part may submit an appeal from such findings, interpretations or decisions as follows:

(i) Appeals shall be made in writing to the Secretary, Maritime Subsidy Board, Maritime Administration, within 60 days following the date of the document notifying the operator of the administrative determination of the Contracting Officer. In the appeal to the Secretary, the operator shall indicate whether or not a hearing is desired.

(ii) MARAD will notify the appellant in writing if a hearing is to be held and whether the operator is required to submit additional facts for consideration in connection with the appeal.

(iii) When a decision has been rendered, the Board shall notify the appellant in writing.

(2) *Appeal to the Secretary of Transportation.* An operator who disagrees with the Board may appeal such findings and determinations by filing with the Secretary of Transportation, a written petition for review of the Board's action. The petition shall be filed in accordance with provisions of the Department of Transportation pertaining to Secretarial review.

(3) *Hearings.* MARAD shall follow the Rules of Practice and Procedure (46 CFR part 201, subpart M) for hearings granted under 46 U.S.C. 1176 and 46 CFR 282.32.

PART 283—DIVIDEND POLICY FOR OPERATORS RECEIVING OPERATING-DIFFERENTIAL SUBSIDY

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: Sec. 204(b) Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (46 U.S.C. 1114(b)); Reorganization Plans No. 21 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1273) and No. 7 of 1961 (75 Stat. 840), as amended by Pub. L. 91-469 (84 Stat. 1026); Dept. of Commerce Organization Order 10-8 (38 FR 19707, July 23, 1973).

SOURCE: 45 FR 37445, June 3, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

§ 283.1 Purpose.

(a) The rules of this part establish requirements for the declaration and payment of cash dividends by operators receiving operating-differential subsidy (ODS) under Title VI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (46 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) (Act). This part shall be applicable immediately unless otherwise provided for in the operators' operating-differential subsidy agreement (ODSA).

(b) One of the purposes of the Act is to foster the development and encourage the maintenance of the United States Merchant Marine. Subsidized operators are required to maintain the financial ability to assure adequate and timely reinvestment in the merchant marine. The policy contained herein takes into consideration the operators' contractual obligations to construct and acquire vessels, retire debt obligations secured by ship mortgages and maintain adequate working capital. However, this policy also takes into consideration the operators' need to attract new capital to the industry by paying dividends which are appropriate in light of the operators' earnings and long-range financial position.

§ 283.2 Definitions.

(a) *Long-Term Debt* means, as of any date, the total notes, bonds, debentures, equipment obligations and other evidence of indebtedness that would be included in Long-Term Debt in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, less the balance of escrow fund deposits attributable to the principal of obligations guaranteed pursuant to Title XI of the Act, where deposits are required in accordance with § 298.33. Capitalized Lease Obligations shall be included, but deferred income taxes shall not be included.

(b) *Capitalized Lease Obligations* means, as of any date, an amount (excluding amounts already included in Long-Term Debt) equal to the sum of: (1) The present value of all capital leases, as defined and computed in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 13, Accounting for Leases (FASB-13), and

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(2) ½ of the minimum rentals (less operating components such as insurance, maintenance, property taxes, etc.) of all operating leases, as defined and includable in footnotes to the financial statements in accordance with FASB-13, for shipping property, i.e., vessels, containers, barges, terminals and other similar property.

(c) *Equity* (net worth) means, as of any date, the total of paid-in-capital stock, paid-in-capital, retained earnings and all other amounts that would be included in Equity in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, but adjustable as follows. The net worth shall be reduced to the extent that the net worth computation includes any receivables from an affiliate of the company or any stockholder, director, officer, or employee (or any member of the employee's family) of the company, or of an affiliate of the company, other than (1) reasonable advances to affiliated agents required for the normal operation of the company's vessels, or (2) current receivables arising out of the ordinary course of business, and which are not outstanding for more than 120 days.

(d) *Floor net worth* means net worth computed as follows: The net worth requirement for existing operators shall be initially set at the greater of 90 percent of the operator's existing net worth or 50 percent of the operator's long-term debt contained in its audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 1979. A new operator's net worth requirement shall initially be set at the greater of 90 percent of existing net worth or 50 percent of the original long-term debt issued with respect to the operator's vessel(s).

(e) *Adjusted floor net worth* means that the floor net worth requirement may be reduced with consent of the Maritime Administrator in an amount equivalent to amounts an operator could have paid in dividends under the previous policy set forth in this regulation prior to amendment in 1980, in the three years prior to the date of effectiveness of this policy, but chose not to pay out in dividends. The floor net worth requirement for both existing operators and new operators shall be further adjusted from time to time as follows:

(1) The net worth requirement shall be increased by an amount equal to 50 percent of the original long-term debt to be issued with respect to new vessel construction (with respect to existing operators, new vessel construction contracts executed after December 31, 1979), and

(2) the net worth requirements shall be decreased by an amount equal to 50 percent of the original long-term debt issued with respect to vessels which are removed from service or otherwise transferred or sold.

(f) *Working capital* means the difference between current assets and current liabilities, both determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, adjusted as follows:

(1) Current assets shall be reduced with respect to:

(i) Amounts in any Title XI Reserve Fund, pursuant to 46 CFR 298.35(e) or Capital Construction Fund (CCF) Security Amount prescribed by 46 CFR 298.35(f), that is being maintained pursuant to an agreement covering a vessel owned or leased by the company, or in another similar fund required under any other mortgage, indenture or other agreement to which the company is a party;

(ii) Any securities, obligations or evidences of indebtedness of an affiliate of the company or of any stockholder, director, officer or employee (or any member of the family of an employee of the company or of such affiliate), except: (a) Reasonable advances to affiliated agents required for the normal current operation of the company's vessels, or (b) receivables outstanding for not more than 120 days, arising out of the ordinary course of business.

(2) Current assets shall be increased with respect to CCF accruals (but not actual deposits), if the operator has first met its prorated CCF minimum deposit schedule.

(3) Current liabilities shall be increased by one-half of the annual payment of all charter hire and other lease obligations having a term of more than twelve months, other than charter hire and other lease obligations already included and reported as a current liability on the company's balance sheet.

(4) Current liabilities shall be decreased by amounts on deposit in a CCF which are available for the payment of current liabilities.

(g) *Prior years' earnings* means the aggregate net income after tax for the three years immediately preceding the year in which the dividend is declared. An operator may include in prior years' earnings estimated net operating income after tax for the current fiscal year if such amount is based upon actual net operating income after tax for the first nine months of the current year. If an operator includes estimated current income in its prior years' earnings computation, it may also include earnings for only the immediately preceding two years, rather than three years, in the computation of prior years' earnings.

(h) *Funds available* shall mean the sum of:

(1) Amounts on deposit in any fund established pursuant to the Act plus accrued deposits, unless already included in working capital, (including interest thereon), less accrued withdrawals from any such fund;

(2) Gross book value, as shown on the operators' books of account, of subsidized vessels and related barges and containers, less accumulated depreciation;

(3) Progress payments made on subsidized vessels and related barges and containers undergoing construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning;

(4) Progress payments made on additional vessels and related barges and containers, if any, which the operator has agreed to construct or acquire pursuant to any contract entered into with the Maritime Administrator or the Maritime Subsidy Board (Board);

(5) Balance of trade-in allowances pursuant to section 510 of the Act;

(6) Capitalized Lease Obligations as defined in § 283.2(b); and

(7) Working capital as defined in § 283.2(f).

(i) *Funds required* means the sum of:

(1) 25 percent of the total cost to the operator of: (i) Subsidized vessels under construction, reconstruction or reconditioning, (ii) additional vessels under construction, reconstruction or reconditioning pursuant to any contract entered into between the operator and

the Maritime Administrator or the Board, and (iii) barges and containers under construction or under contract to purchase, and to be used as part of the complement of such vessels;

(2) 25 percent of the total cost to the operator, estimated at the time a cash dividend is to be declared, of: (i) Replacement of subsidized vessels required to be replaced under the current ODSA (which cost must be indicated whether or not the operator anticipates leasing replacement vessels), (ii) additional vessels which the operator has agreed to construct or acquire pursuant to any contract entered into with the Maritime Administrator or the Board, and (iii) barges and containers required as part of the complement of such vessels. In making this computation, the operator shall obtain the prior written agreement of the Maritime Subsidy Board as to number of replacement vessels, type and commercial characteristics, projected award date of construction contract, projected delivery dates, estimated total cost (current) and method used to determine such cost, intended area of operation, and identity of vessels to be replaced.

(3) Capitalized Lease Obligations as defined in § 283.2(b), excluding that portion of any such amount payable within one year; and

(4) Outstanding indebtedness on, or secured by, subsidized vessels and related barges and containers, or incurred in connection with the acquisition, construction or reconstruction of such vessels and related barges and containers.

§ 283.3 Dividend policy criteria.

(a) *In general.* A subsidized operator may pay cash dividends at any time it desires up to the amount set forth in paragraph (b) of this section. Dividends may be paid pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section, as provided therein. The written approval of the Maritime Administrator shall be obtained prior to any declaration of dividends by the operator, if the payment of dividends does not meet the criteria of either paragraph (b) or (c) of this section. It is intended that dividend payments be