

investigation fee. The Letter Commitment will state the fee which is based on the formula in paragraph (b) of this section.

(1) The investigation fee covers the cost of the investigation of the project described in the application and the participants in the project, the appraisal of properties offered as security, Vessel inspection during construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning (where applicable) and other administrative expenses.

(2) If, for any reason, we disapprove the application, you shall pay one-half of the investigation fees.

(b) *Base Fee.* (1) The investigation fee shall be one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of one percent on Obligations to be issued up to and including \$10,000,000, plus

(2) One-eighth ( $\frac{1}{8}$ ) of one percent on all Obligations to be issued in excess of \$10,000,000.

(c) *Credit for filing fee.* You will receive credit for the \$5,000 filing fee that you paid upon filing the original application (described in §298.3) towards the investigation fee.

#### § 298.16 Substitution of participants.

(a) You may request our permission to substitute participants to a Mortgage and/or Security Agreement in a financing that is receiving assistance authorized by Title XI of the Act.

(b) A non-refundable fee of \$3,000 is due, payable at the time of the request. The fee defrays all costs of processing and reviewing a joint application by a mortgagor and/or Obligor and a proposed transferee of a Vessel or Shipyard Project, which is security for Title XI debt, if the proposed transferee is to assume the Mortgage and/or the Security Agreement.

#### § 298.17 Evaluation of applications.

(a) In evaluating project applications, we shall also consider whether the application provides for:

(1) The capability of the Vessel(s) serving as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency.

(2) The financing of the Vessel(s) within one year after delivery.

(3) The acquisition of Vessel(s) currently financed under Title XI by assumption of the total obligation(s).

(4) The Guarantees extend for less than the normal term for that class of vessel.

(5) In the case of an Eligible Shipyard, the capability of the shipyard to engage in naval vessel construction in time of war or national emergency.

(6) In the case of Shipyard Project, the Guarantees extend for less than the technological life of the asset.

(b) In determining the amount of equity which you must provide, we will consider, among other things, the following:

(1) Your financial strength;

(2) Adequacy of collateral; and

(3) The term of the Guarantees.

#### § 298.18 Financing Shipyard Projects.

(a) *Initial criteria.* We may issue Guarantees to finance a Shipyard Project at a General Shipyard Facility. We may approve such Guarantees after we consider whether the Guarantees will result in shipyard modernization and support increased productivity.

(b) *Detailed statement.* You must provide a detailed statement, with the Guarantee application, which will provide the basis for our consideration.

(c) *Required conditions.* We shall approve your application for loan guarantees under this section if we determine the following:

(1) The term for such Guarantees will not exceed the reasonable economic useful life of the collective assets which comprise this Shipyard Project;

(2) There is sufficient collateral to secure the Guarantee; and

(3) Your application will not prevent us from guaranteeing debt for a Shipyard Project that, in our sole opinion, will serve a more desirable use of appropriated funds. In making this determination, we will consider:

(i) The types of vessels which will be built by the shipyard,

(ii) The productivity increases which will be achieved,

(iii) The geographic location of the shipyard,

(iv) The long-term viability of the shipyard,

(v) The soundness of the financial transaction,

(vi) Any financial impact on other Title XI transactions, and

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(vii) The furtherance of the goals of the Shipbuilding Act.

### § 298.19 Financing Eligible Export Vessels.

(a) *Notification to Secretary of Defense.*

(1) We will provide prompt notice of our receipt of an application for a loan Guarantee for an Eligible Export Vessel to the Secretary of Defense.

(2) During the 30-day period, beginning on the date on which the Secretary of Defense receives such notice, the Secretary of Defense may disapprove the loan guarantee if the Secretary of Defense makes an assessment that the Vessel's potential use may cause harm to United States national security interests.

(3) The Secretary of Defense may not disapprove a loan Guarantee under this section solely on the basis of the type of vessel to be constructed with the loan Guarantee. The authority of the Secretary of Defense to disapprove a loan Guarantee under this section may not be delegated to any official other than a civilian officer of the Department of Defense appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. We will not approve a loan guarantee disapproved by the Secretary of Defense.

(b) *Vessel eligibility.* We may not approve a Guarantee for an Eligible Export Vessel unless:

(1) We find that the construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning of the Vessel will aid in the transition of United States shipyards to commercial activities or will preserve shipbuilding assets that would be essential in time of war or national emergency;

(2) The owner of the Vessel agrees with us that the Vessel shall not be transferred to any country designated by the Secretary of Defense as a country whose interests are hostile to the interests of the United States; and

(3) We determine that the countries in which the shipowner, its charterers, guarantors, or other financial interests supporting the transaction, if any, have their chief executive offices or have located a substantial portion of their assets, present an acceptable financial or legal risk to our collateral interests. Our determination will be based on confidential risk assessments

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provided by the Inter-Agency Country Risk Assessment System and will take into account any other factors related to the loan guarantee transaction that we deem pertinent.

### Subpart C—Guarantees

#### § 298.20 Term, redemptions, and interest rate.

(a) *In general.* The maturity date of the Obligations must be satisfactory to us and must not exceed the anticipated physical and economic life of the Vessel or Vessels or Shipyard Project, and may be less than but no more than:

(1) Twenty-five years from the date of delivery from the shipbuilder of a single new Vessel which is to be security for Guarantees;

(2) Twenty-five years from the date of delivery from the shipyard of the last of multiple Vessels which are to be security for the Guarantees but that the amount of the Guarantees will relate to the amount of the depreciated actual cost of the multiple Vessels as of the Closing;

(3) The later of twenty-five years from the date of original delivery of a reconstructed, or reconditioned Vessel which is to be security for the Guarantees, or at the expiration of the remaining useful life of the Vessel, as we determine; or

(4) The technological life of the Shipyard Project.

(b) *Required redemptions.* Where multiple Vessels or multiple Shipyard Project assets are to be used as security for the Guarantees, as set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, we may require payments of principal prior to maturity (redemptions) regarding all related Obligations, as we may deem necessary to maintain adequate security for the Guarantees.

(c) *Interest rate.* We will make a determination as to the reasonableness of the interest rate of each Obligation, taking into account the range of interest rates prevailing in the private market for similar loans and the risks that we assume.

#### § 298.21 Limits.

(a) *Actual Cost basis.* We will issue a guarantee on an amount of the Obligation satisfactory to us based on the