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the availability of funds to pay liability claims for death or injury, and assisting in the background surveys of OTI applicants;

(8) Conducting special surveys and studies, and recommending policies to strengthen enforcement of the shipping laws;

(9) Maintaining liaison with Federal and State agencies with respect to areas of mutual concern; and

(10) Providing assistance to the various bureaus and offices of the Commission, as appropriate and when requested.

(k) The *Office of Consumer Affairs and Dispute Resolution Services*, under the direction and management of the Office Director, has responsibility for developing and implementing the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program, responds to consumer inquiries and complaints, and coordinates the Commission's efforts to resolve disputes within the shipping industry. The Office reviews existing and proposed legislation and regulations for impact on the shipping industry and its consumers and recommends appropriate policies and regulations to facilitate trade. The Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs and Dispute Resolution Services is designated as the agency's Senior Dispute Resolution Specialist pursuant to section 3 of the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act, Public Law 101-552, as amended by section 4(a) of Public Law 104-320. The Director also serves as the Commission's Ombudsman.

(l) *Boards and Committees*. The following boards and committees are established by separate Commission orders to address matters relating to the overall operations of the Commission:

(1) The *Executive Resources Board* ("ERB") is composed of members of the Senior Executive Service as designated by the Chairman. The Chairman shall designate an ERB chair on a rotational basis beginning October 1 of each year. The Board meets on an *ad hoc* basis to discuss, develop and submit recommendations to the Chairman on matters related to the merit staffing process for career appointments in the Senior Executive Service, including the executive qualifications of candidates for career appointment. The Board also plans and manages the Com-

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mission's executive development programs. Serving the Board in a non-voting advisory capacity are the Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, the Training Officer, and the Director, Office of Human Resources, who also serves as the Board's secretary. [Commission Order No. 95.]

(2) The *Performance Review Board* ("PRB") is chaired by a Commissioner designated by the Chairman, and is composed of a standing register of members which is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Once a year, the PRB Chairman appoints performance review panels from the membership to review individual performance appraisals and other relevant information pertaining to Senior Executives at the Commission, and to recommend final performance ratings to the Chairman. [Commission Order No. 115.] Every three years, the PRB considers supervisors' recommendations as to whether Senior Executives of the Commission should be recertified under the Ethics Reform Act of 1989, and makes appropriate recommendations to the Commission's Chairman. [Commission Order No. 118.]

(3) The *Maritime Environmental Committee* ("MEC") is an internal Committee made up of Commission staff as designated by the Chairman. The MEC advises the Chairman and the Commission on issues involving environmental and sustainable shipping practices, initiatives, operational proposals, and similar matters affecting entities regulated by the Commission to assist the Commission in its review and regulation of agreements and in its statutory responsibility for ensuring an efficient ocean transportation system.

[70 FR 7659, Feb. 15, 2005, as amended at 74 FR 50714, Oct. 1, 2009; 75 FR 29452, May 26, 2010; 75 FR 31321, June 3, 2010]

Subpart B—Official Seal

§ 501.11 Official seal.

(a) *Description*. Pursuant to section 201(c) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (46 U.S.C. 301(d)), the Commission prescribes its official seal, as adopted by the Commission on August 14, 1961, which shall be judicially noticed. The design of the official seal is described as follows:

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(1) A shield argent paly of six gules, a chief azure charged with a fouled anchor or; shield and anchor outlined of the third; on a wreath argent and gules, an eagle displayed proper; all on a gold disc within a blue border, encircled by a gold rope outlined in blue, and bearing in white letters the inscription "Federal Maritime Commission" in upper portion and "1961" in lower portion.

(2) The shield and eagle above it are associated with the United States of America and denote the national scope of maritime affairs. The outer rope and fouled anchor are symbolic of seamen and waterborne transportation. The date "1961" has historical significance, indicating the year in which the Commission was created.

(b) *Design.*



[70 FR 7659, Feb. 15, 2005, as amended at 74 FR 50714, Oct. 1, 2009]

Subpart C—Delegation and Redlegation of Authorities

§ 501.21 Delegation of authorities.

(a) *Authority and delegation.* Section 105 of Reorganization Plan No. 7 of 1961, August 12, 1961, authorizes the Commission to delegate, by published order or rule, any of its functions to a division of the Commission, an individual Commissioner, an administrative law judge, or an employee or employee board, including functions with respect to hearing, determining, ordering, certifying, reporting or otherwise acting as to any work, business or matter. In subpart A of this part, the Commission has delegated general functions, and in this subpart C it is delegating miscellaneous, specific authorities set forth in

§§ 501.23, *et seq.*, to the delegates designated therein, subject to the limitations prescribed in subsequent subsections of this section.

(b) *Deputies.* Where bureau or office deputies are officially appointed, they are hereby delegated all necessary authority to act in the absence or incapacity of the director or chief.

(c) *Redelegation.* Subject to the limitations in this section, the delegates may redelegate their authorities to subordinate personnel under their supervision and direction; but only if this subpart is amended to reflect such redelegation and notice thereof is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Under any redelegated authority, the redelegator assumes full responsibility for actions taken by subordinate redelegatees.

(d) *Exercise of authority; policy and procedure.* The delegates and redelegatees shall exercise the authorities delegated or redelegated in a manner consistent with applicable laws and the established policies of the Commission, and shall consult with the General Counsel where appropriate.

(e) *Exercise of delegated authority by delegator.* Under any authority delegated or redelegated, the delegator (Commission), or the redelegator, respectively, shall retain full rights to exercise the authority in the first instance.

(f) *Review of delegatee's action.* The delegator (Commission) or redelegator of authority shall retain a discretionary right to review an action taken under delegated authority by a subordinate delegatee, either upon the filing of a written petition of a party to, or an intervenor in, such action; or upon the delegator's or redelegator's own initiative.

(1) Petitions for review of actions taken under delegated authority shall be filed within ten (10) calendar days of the action taken:

(i) If the action for which review is sought is taken by a delegatee, the petition shall be addressed to the Commission pursuant to § 502.69 of this chapter.

(ii) If the action for which review is sought is taken by a redelegatee, the petition shall be addressed to the