§ 4.66a Illegal discharge of oil and hazardous substances.

If a port director receives a request from an officer of the U.S. Coast Guard to withhold clearance of a vessel whose owner or operator is subject to a civil penalty for discharging oil or a hazardous substance into or upon the navigable waters of the United States, adjoining shorelines, or into or upon the waters of the contiguous zone in quantities determined to be harmful by appropriate authorities, such clearance shall not be granted until the port director is informed that a bond or other surety satisfactory to the Coast Guard has been filed.


§ 4.66b Pollution of coastal and navigable waters.

(a) If any Customs officer has reason to believe that any refuse matter is being or has been deposited in navigable waters or any tributary of any navigable waters in violation of section 13 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1152; 33 U.S.C. 407), or oil or a hazardous substance is being or has been discharged into or upon the navigable waters of the United States, adjoining shorelines, or into or upon the waters of the contiguous zone in quantities determined to be harmful by appropriate authorities, such clearance shall not be granted until the port director is informed that a bond or other surety satisfactory to the Coast Guard has been filed.

(b) The port director shall forward this report immediately, without recommendation, to the district commander of the Coast Guard district concerned and a copy of such report shall be furnished to Headquarters, U.S. Customs Service.


§ 4.66c Oil pollution by oceangoing vessels.

(a) If a port director receives a request from a Coast Guard officer to refuse or revoke the clearance or permit to proceed of a vessel because the vessel, its owner, operator, or person in charge, is liable for a fine or civil penalty, or reasonable cause exists to believe that they may be subject to a fine or civil penalty under the provisions of 33 U.S.C. 1908 for violating the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL Protocol), the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, 1980 (33 U.S.C. 1901–1911), or regulations issued thereunder, such clearance or a permit to proceed shall be refused or revoked. Clearance or a permit to proceed may be granted when the port director is informed that a bond or other security satisfactory to the Coast Guard has been filed.

(b) If a port director receives a notification from a Coast Guard officer that an order has been issued to detain a vessel required to have an International Oil Pollution Prevention (IOPP) Certificate which does not have a valid certificate on board, or whose condition or whose equipment’s condition does not substantially agree with the particulars of the certificate on board, or which presents an unreasonable threat of harm to the marine environment, the port director shall refuse or revoke the clearance or permit to proceed of the vessel if requested to do so by a Coast Guard officer. The port director shall not grant clearance or issue a permit to proceed to the vessel until notified by a Coast Guard officer that detention of the vessel is no longer required.

(c) If a port director receives a notification from a Coast Guard officer to detain a vessel operated under the authority of a country not a party to the MARPOL Protocol which does not have a valid certificate on board showing that the vessel has been surveyed in accordance with and complies with the requirements of the MARPOL Protocol, or whose condition or whose equipment’s condition does not substantially agree with the particulars of the certificate on board, or which presents an unreasonable threat of harm to the marine environment, the port director shall refuse or revoke the clearance or permit to proceed of the vessel if requested to do so by a Coast Guard officer. The port director shall not grant clearance or issue a permit.
§ 4.67 to proceed to the vessel until notified by a Coast Guard officer that detention of the vessel is no longer required.
[T.D. 81–148, 49 FR 28695, July 16, 1984]

§ 4.67 Closed ports or places.

No foreign vessel shall be granted a clearance or permit to proceed to any port or place from which such vessels are excluded by orders or regulations of the United States Navy Department except with the prior approval of that Department.

§ 4.68 Federal Maritime Commission certificates for certain passenger vessels.

No vessel having berth or stateroom accommodations for 50 or more passengers and embarking passengers at U.S. ports will be granted a clearance at the port or place of departure from the United States unless it is established that the vessel has valid certificates issued by the Federal Maritime Commission.
[T.D. 00–4, 65 FR 2874, Jan. 19, 2000]

§ 4.69 Shipping articles.

No vessel of the U.S. on a voyage between a U.S. port and a foreign port (except a port in Canada, Mexico, or the West Indies), or if of at least 75 gross tons, on a voyage between a U.S. port on the Atlantic Ocean and a U.S. port on the Pacific Ocean, shall be granted clearance before presentation, to the appropriate Customs officer, of the shipping articles agreements, including any seaman’s allotment agreement, required by 46 U.S.C. chapter 103, in the form provided for in 46 CFR 14.05–1.

§ 4.70 Public Health Service requirements.

No clearance will be granted to a vessel subject to the foreign quarantine regulations of the Public Health Service.
[T.D. 00–4, 65 FR 2874, Jan. 19, 2000]

§ 4.71 Inspection of livestock.

A proper export inspection certificate issued by the Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, shall be filed before the clearance of a vessel carrying horses, mules, asses, cattle, sheep, swine, or goats (9 CFR part 91)
[T.D. 79–32, 44 FR 5650, Jan. 29, 1979]

§ 4.72 Inspection of meat, meat-food products, and inedible fats.

(a) No clearance shall be granted to any vessel carrying meat or meat-food products, as defined and classified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Meat and Poultry Inspection until there have been filed with the port director such copies of export certificates concerning such meat or meat-food products as are required by the pertinent regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Meat and Poultry Inspection (9 CFR part 322). If such certificate has been obtained but is unavailable at the scheduled time of a vessel’s departure, the vessel may be cleared on the basis of the receipt of a statement, under the shipper’s or shipper’s agent’s letterhead, certifying the number of boxes, the number of pounds, the product name and the U.S. Department of Agriculture export certificate number that covers the shipment of the product. If such statement has been used as the basis for obtaining vessel clearance, the duplicate of the certificate must be filed with Customs within the time period prescribed by §4.75.

(b) No clearance shall be granted to any vessel carrying tallow, stearin, oleo oil, or other rendered fat derived from cattle, sheep, swine, or goats for export from the United States, which has not been inspected, passed, and marked by the United States Department of Agriculture, unless the port director is furnished with a certificate by the exporter that the article is inedible.