

**FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
(FMC)****Statement of Regulatory and
Deregulatory Priorities**

The Federal Maritime Commission's regulatory objectives are guided by the Agency's vision statement. The Commission's vision is to administer the shipping statutes as effectively as possible to provide fairness and efficiency in the United States foreign maritime commerce. The Commission's regulations are designed to implement each of the statutes the FMC administers in a manner consistent with this vision in a way that minimizes regulatory costs and fosters economic efficiencies.

The Commission has implemented its Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2010 through 2015. As a result of the strategic planning process, the Commission's mission statement, strategic goals and performance measures have been refined to better focus the FMC's efforts in achieving its mission and promote efficiency in the Commission's business processes. In working toward these objectives, the Commission will initiate rulemakings to address changing industry conditions or to implement technological advancements to minimize regulatory costs.

The Commission is in the process of reviewing its regulations to ensure alignment with emerging industry trends and business practices, particularly as they relate to ocean transportation intermediaries, marine terminal operators and vessel-operating common carriers. For administrative purposes, the FMC amended its regulations to reflect the codification of shipping laws in Title 46 of the United States Code and revised Commission rules to adjust civil monetary penalties for inflation. The FMC also commenced a rulemaking to assess the continued need for a marine terminal agreement exemption (46 CFR 535.308) in light of recent industry changes and existing exemptions for marine terminal services agreements and marine terminal facilities agreements under 46 CFR 535.309 and 535.310.

The Commission also oversees the financial responsibility of passenger vessel operators to indemnify passengers and other persons in cases of death or injury and to indemnify passengers for nonperformance of voyages. The Commission is presently evaluating the passenger vessel operator program, particularly with regard to passenger vessel financial responsibility requirements.

The principal priority of the Agency's current regulatory plan will be to continue to assess major existing regulations for ongoing need, burden on the regulated industry, and clarity. The Commission receives requests from segments of the shipping industry with regard to their tariff obligations under the Commission's regulations. The Commission invites comments on such requests and evaluates those comments. If the Commission determines to act favorably on the requests, it is possible that there could be specific rulemaking proposals presented for the Commission's consideration.

The Commission's review of existing regulations exemplifies its objective to regulate fairly and effectively while imposing a minimum burden on the regulated entities, following the principles stated by the President in Executive Order 12866.

**Description of the Most Significant
Regulatory Actions**

The Commission currently has no actions under consideration that constitute "significant regulatory actions" under the definition in Executive Order 12866.

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