

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the United States Customs Service of the Department of the Treasury, including functions of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 203(l), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6. For establishment of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the Department of Homeland Security, treated as if included in Pub. L. 107-296 as of Nov. 25, 2002, see section 211 of Title 6, as amended generally by Pub. L. 114-125, and section 802(b) of Pub. L. 114-125, set out as a note under section 211 of Title 6.

CHAPTER 85—PILOTS

- Sec.
- 8501. State regulation of pilots.
- 8502. Federal pilots required.
- 8503. Federal pilots authorized.

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Chapter 85 provides for State pilotage to be regulated by the States and only in conformity with the laws of the States. It clearly spells out the preeminence of the State's role in regulating pilots for vessels operating on the bays, rivers, harbors, and ports of the United States. However, those vessels that are required to have a Federally licensed pilot, those that operate on waters outside the territorial sea of the United States, and those that operate on waters of the Great Lakes are not subject to State pilotage laws or requirements. In essence this chapter, with minor changes, confirms the State and Federal relationship with respect to pilotage that has evolved since the founding of the Nation.

This chapter permits the continuation of Federal pilotage requirements for vessels that are not required to obtain compulsory State pilotage. It confirms the practice of allowing anyone with a Federal pilotage endorsement for the waters in which the vessel is operating to be in control of a vessel when engaged in the coastwise trade. It also confirms the practice of using Federal pilots that are often organized into groups or working organizations who offer their expertise and services to vessels that are not required to obtain compulsory State pilotage.

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-557, §29(f)(3)(B), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2874, added item 8503.

§ 8501. State regulation of pilots

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, pilots in the bays, rivers, harbors, and ports of the United States shall be regulated only in conformity with the laws of the States.

(b) The master of a vessel entering or leaving a port on waters that are a boundary between 2 States, and that is required to have a pilot under this section, may employ a pilot licensed or authorized by the laws of either of the 2 States.

(c) A State may not adopt a regulation or provision that discriminates in the rate of pilotage or half-pilotage between vessels sailing between the ports of one State and vessels sailing between the ports of different States, or against vessels because of their means of propulsion, or against public vessels of the United States.

(d) A State may not adopt a regulation or provision that requires a coastwise vessel to take a pilot licensed or authorized by the laws of a State if the vessel—

(1) is propelled by machinery and subject to inspection under part B of this subtitle; or

(2) is subject to inspection under chapter 37 of this title.

(e) Any regulation or provision violating this section is void.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 553; Pub. L. 98-557, §29(e), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2874.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i>
8501(a)	46:211
8501(b)	46:212
8501(c), (e)	46:213
8501(d)	46:215

Section 8501 establishes the general proposition that the States regulate pilots in the bays, rivers, harbors, and ports of the United States, unless otherwise specifically provided by law.

Subsection (a) states this general proposition and uses the word "only" for emphasis on this point. Further, except as specifically provided in law, the Committee intends that this chapter not be construed to annul or affect any regulation established by the laws of a State requiring a vessel entering or leaving a port in that State to employ a pilot licensed or authorized by the laws of that State. In at least two places in current law, this general proposition is stated in both a positive and negative manner. The Committee intends to consolidate those separate statements into one provision to avoid ambiguity and redundancy.

Subsections (b) and (c) contain provisions regarding pilotage in waters between two States.

Subsection (d) prohibits a State from requiring a State licensed pilot on certain coastwise vessels.

Subsection (e) voids any regulation or provision violating this section.

AMENDMENTS

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-557 substituted "subtitle" for "part".

§ 8502. Federal pilots required

(a) Except as provided in subsections (g) and (i) of this section, a coastwise seagoing vessel shall be under the direction and control of a pilot licensed under section 7101 of this title if the vessel is—

- (1) not sailing on register;
- (2) underway;
- (3) not beyond 3 nautical miles from the baselines from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured; and

(4)(A) propelled by machinery and subject to inspection under part B of this subtitle; or

(B) subject to inspection under chapter 37 of this title.

(b) The fees charged for pilotage by pilots required under this section may not be more than the customary or legally established rates in the States in which the pilotage is performed.

(c) A State or political subdivision of a State may not impose on a pilot licensed under this subtitle an obligation to procure a State or other license, or adopt any other regulation that will impede the pilot in the performance of the pilot's duties under the laws of the United States.

(d) A State or political subdivision of a State may not levy pilot charges on a vessel lawfully piloted by a pilot required under this section.

(e) The owner, charterer, managing operator, agent, master, or individual in charge of a vessel

operated in violation of this section or a regulation prescribed under this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of \$10,000. The vessel also is liable in rem for the penalty.

(f) An individual serving as a pilot without having a license required by this section or a regulation prescribed under this section is liable to the Government for a civil penalty of \$10,000.

(g)(1) The Secretary shall designate by regulation the areas of the approaches to and waters of Prince William Sound, Alaska, if any, on which a vessel subject to this section is not required to be under the direction and control of a pilot licensed under section 7101 of this title.

(2) In any area of Prince William Sound, Alaska, where a vessel subject to this section is required to be under the direction and control of a pilot licensed under section 7101 of this title, the pilot may not be a member of the crew of that vessel and shall be a pilot licensed by the State of Alaska who is operating under a Federal license, when the vessel is navigating waters between 60°49' North latitude and the Port of Valdez, Alaska.

(h) The Secretary shall designate waters on which tankers over 1,600 gross tons subject to this section shall have on the bridge a master or mate licensed to direct and control the vessel under section 7101(c)(1) of this title who is separate and distinct from the pilot required under subsection (a) of this section.

(i)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a dredge to which this section would otherwise apply is exempt from the requirements of this section.

(2) If the Secretary determines, after notice and comment, that the exemption under paragraph (1) creates a hazard to navigational safety in a specified area, the Secretary may require that a dredge exempted by paragraph (1) which is operating in that area shall comply with this section.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 553; Pub. L. 98-557, §29(f)(1), (2), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2874; Pub. L. 99-307, §1(13), May 19, 1986, 100 Stat. 446; Pub. L. 101-380, title IV, §§4116(a), (b), 4302(g), Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 522, 539; Pub. L. 101-595, title III, §307, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2985; Pub. L. 105-383, title III, §301(b)(7), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3417.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i>
8502	46:215 46:364 46:391a 46:497

Section 8502 sets forth the provisions and requirements for pilots licensed under section 7101. It is an exception provided by law envisioned under section 8501(a).

Subsection (a) applies the requirement for a Federal pilot to coastwise seagoing vessels if propelled by machinery and inspected under part B or if inspected under chapter 37, including a tank barge. The section has been carefully worded to clearly set out those vessels that are required at times to have a Federal pilot.

Subsection (b) prohibits Federal pilot fees from being higher than those required for State pilots. Subsections (c) and (d) prohibit States from imposing impediments to the proper performance of, or levying charges related to, Federal pilotage.

Subsections (e) and (f) prescribe civil penalties for violation of this section.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 105-383 substituted “not beyond 3 nautical miles from the baselines from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured” for “not on the high seas”.

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-595, §307(1), substituted “subsections (g) and (i)” for “subsection (g)” in introductory provisions.

Subsecs. (e), (f). Pub. L. 101-380, §4302(g), substituted “\$10,000” for “\$500”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 101-380, §4116(a), amended subsec. (g) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (g) read as follows: “The Secretary shall designate by regulation the areas of the approaches to and waters of Prince William Sound, Alaska, on which a vessel subject to this section is not required to be under the direction and control of a pilot licensed under section 7101 of this title.”

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 101-380, §4116(b), added subsec. (h).

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 101-595, §307(2), added subsec. (i).

1986—Subsec. (a)(4)(A). Pub. L. 99-307 substituted “part” for “Part”.

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-557, §29(f)(1), amended subsec. (a) generally, which prior to amendment read as follows: “A coastwise seagoing vessel, when not sailing on register and when underway (except on the high seas), shall be under the direction and control of a pilot licensed under section 7101 of this title if the vessel is—

“(1) propelled by machinery and subject to inspection under part B of this subtitle; or

“(2) subject to inspection under chapter 37 of this title.”

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 98-557, §29(f)(2), added subsec. (g).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-380 applicable to incidents occurring after Aug. 18, 1990, see section 1020 of Pub. L. 101-380, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2701 of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters.

TERRITORIAL SEA OF UNITED STATES

For extension of territorial sea of United States, see Proc. No. 5928, set out as a note under section 1331 of Title 43, Public Lands.

§ 8503. Federal pilots authorized

(a) The Secretary may require a pilot licensed under section 7101 of this title on a self-propelled vessel when a pilot is not required by State law and the vessel is—

(1) engaged in foreign commerce; and

(2) operating—

(A) in internal waters of the United States; or

(B) within 3 nautical miles from the baselines from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured.

(b) A requirement prescribed under subsection (a) of this section is terminated when the State having jurisdiction over the area involved—

(1) establishes a requirement for a State licensed pilot; and

(2) notifies the Secretary of that fact.

(c) For the Saint Lawrence Seaway, the Secretary may not delegate the authority under this section to an agency except the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

(d) A person violating this section or a regulation prescribed under this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of

not more than \$25,000. Each day of a continuing violation is a separate violation. The vessel also is liable in rem for the penalty.

(e) A person that knowingly violates this section or a regulation prescribed under this section commits a class D felony.

(Added Pub. L. 98-557, §29(f)(3)(A), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2874; amended Pub. L. 101-380, title IV, §4302(h), Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 539; Pub. L. 105-383, title III, §301(b)(8), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3417.)

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 105-383 added par. (2) and struck out former par. (2) which read as follows: “operating on the navigable waters of the United States.”

1990—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101-380 substituted “commits a class D felony” for “shall be fined not more than \$50,000, imprisoned for not more than five years, or both”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-380 applicable to incidents occurring after Aug. 18, 1990, see section 1020 of Pub. L. 101-380, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2701 of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters.

TERRITORIAL SEA OF UNITED STATES

For extension of territorial sea of United States, see Proc. No. 5928, set out as a note under section 1331 of Title 43, Public Lands.

CHAPTER 87—UNLICENSED PERSONNEL

- Sec.
- 8701. Merchant mariners’ documents required.
- 8702. Certain crew requirements.
- 8703. Tankermen on tank vessels.
- 8704. Alien deemed to be employed in the United States.

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Chapter 87 prescribes certain requirements for unlicensed personnel on vessels of at least 100 gross tons and on certain tank vessels.

AMENDMENTS

1988—Pub. L. 100-239, §5(f)(2), Jan. 11, 1988, 101 Stat. 1781, added item 8704.

§ 8701. Merchant mariners’ documents required

(a) This section applies to a merchant vessel of at least 100 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of this title except—

- (1) a vessel operating only on rivers and lakes (except the Great Lakes);
- (2) a barge (except a seagoing barge or a barge to which chapter 37 of this title applies);
- (3) a fishing, fish tender, or whaling vessel or a yacht;
- (4) a sailing school vessel with respect to sailing school instructors and sailing school students;
- (5) an oceanographic research vessel with respect to scientific personnel;
- (6) a fish processing vessel entered into service before January 1, 1988, and not more than 1,600 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section

14104 of this title or entered into service after December 31, 1987, and having not more than 16 individuals on board primarily employed in the preparation of fish or fish products;

(7) a fish processing vessel (except a vessel to which clause (6) of this subsection applies) with respect to individuals on board primarily employed in the preparation of fish or fish products or in a support position not related to navigation;

(8) a mobile offshore drilling unit with respect to individuals, other than crew members required by the certificate of inspection, engaged on board the unit for the sole purpose of carrying out the industrial business or function of the unit;

(9) a passenger vessel not engaged in a foreign voyage with respect to individuals on board employed for a period of not more than 30 service days within a 12 month period as entertainment personnel, with no duties, including emergency duties, related to the navigation of the vessel or the safety of the vessel, its crew, cargo or passengers; and

(10) the Secretary may prescribe the individuals required to hold a merchant mariner’s document serving onboard an oil spill response vessel.

(b) A person may not engage or employ an individual, and an individual may not serve, on board a vessel to which this section applies if the individual does not have a merchant mariner’s document issued to the individual under section 7302 of this title. Except for an individual required to be licensed or registered under this part, the document must authorize service in the capacity for which the holder of the document is engaged or employed.

(c) On a vessel to which section 10306 or 10503 of this title does not apply, an individual required by this section to hold a merchant mariner’s document must exhibit it to the master of the vessel before the individual may be employed.

(d) A person (including an individual) violating this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of \$500.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 554; Pub. L. 98-364, title IV, §402(12)(A), July 17, 1984, 98 Stat. 449; Pub. L. 99-640, §11(c), Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3550; Pub. L. 104-324, title VII, §731, title XI, §1104(e), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3940, 3967; Pub. L. 107-295, title III, §324(b), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2104.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i>
8701	46:444 46:643 46:643a 46:672

Section 8701 requires an individual to have a merchant mariner’s document before that individual can be engaged or employed on certain vessels.

Subsection (a) makes this documentation requirement applicable to United States merchant vessels of at least 100 gross tons except for certain inland vessels and barges, fishing or whaling vessels, yachts, and, in certain circumstances, to sailing school vessels or oceanographic research vessels.

Subsection (b) prohibits the engagement or employment of an individual required to have a document pre-