

(Added Pub. L. 97-295, §1(48)(A), Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1298, §7299a; amended Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title XII, §1201(a), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3967; Pub. L. 100-180, div. A, title XI, §1101, Dec. 4, 1987, 101 Stat. 1145; Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title XIV, §1422, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1682; Pub. L. 102-484, div. A, title X, §1016, Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2485; Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title X, §1021, Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2388; renumbered §8669a, Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §807(d)(2), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1836; Pub. L. 118-159, div. A, title X, §1023(a), Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 2052.)

special rule for certain redesignations, see section 800 of Pub. L. 115-232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

Executive Documents

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

For delegation of authority of President under subsec. (a) of this section, see section 2 of Ex. Ord. No. 12765, June 11, 1991, 56 F.R. 27401, set out as a note under section 113 of this title.

§ 8669b. Senior Technical Authority for each naval vessel class

(a) SENIOR TECHNICAL AUTHORITY.—

(1) DESIGNATION FOR EACH VESSEL CLASS REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Navy shall designate, in writing, a Senior Technical Authority for each class of naval vessels as follows:

(A) In the case of a class of vessels which has received Milestone A approval, an approval to enter into technology maturation and risk reduction, or an approval to enter into a subsequent Department of Defense or Department of the Navy acquisition phase as of the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, not later than 30 days after such date of enactment.

(B) In the case of any class of vessels which has not received any approval described in subparagraph (A) as of such date of enactment, at or before the first of such approvals.

(2) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR DESIGNATION.—Each individual designated as a Senior Technical Authority under paragraph (1) shall be an employee of the Navy in the Senior Executive Service in an organization of the Navy that—

(A) possesses the technical expertise required to carry out the responsibilities specified in subsection (b); and

(B) operates independently of chains-of-command for acquisition program management.

(3) TERM.—Each Senior Technical Authority shall be designated for a fixed term, not shorter than the time anticipated to establish demonstrated successful performance of the class of vessels concerned in accordance with its approved capabilities document, as determined by the Secretary at the time of designation.

(4) VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE.—If an individual designated as a Senior Technical Authority voluntarily departs the position before demonstrated successful performance of the class of vessels concerned, the Secretary shall designate, in writing, a replacement, and shall notify, in writing, the congressional defense committees not later than 90 days after such departure.

(5) REMOVAL.—An individual may be removed involuntarily from designation as a Senior Technical Authority only by the Secretary. Not later than 15 days after the involuntary removal of an individual from such designation, the Secretary shall notify, in writing, the congressional defense committees of the removal, including the reasons for the removal. Not later than 90 days after the in-

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
7299a	10:7291 (note).	June 11, 1965, Pub. L. 89-37, §§302, 303, 79 Stat. 128.

In subsection (a), the words “combatant vessels” are substituted for “warships” for consistency in title 10 and because of 1:3. The words “for which appropriations are authorized by this Act and hereafter” are omitted as unnecessary.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2024—Subsec. (c)(4). Pub. L. 118-159 substituted “12 months” for “10 months”.

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 7299a of this title as this section.

2016—Subsec. (c)(4). Pub. L. 114-328 substituted “10 months” for “six months”.

1992—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-484, §1016(a), (b)(1), redesignated subsec. (b) as (a) and struck out former subsec. (a) which read as follows: “The distribution of assignments and contracts for the construction of combatant vessels and escort vessels is subject to the Act of March 27, 1934 (ch. 95, 48 Stat. 503), requiring that the first and each succeeding alternate vessel be constructed in a Navy yard. However, the President may direct that a vessel be constructed in a Navy or private yard if the requirement of this subsection is inconsistent with the public interest.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-484, §1016(b)(1), redesignated subsec. (c) as (b). Former subsec. (b) redesignated (a).

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 102-484, §1016(b), redesignated subsec. (d) as (c) and substituted “subsection (a)” for “subsection (b)” in par. (2). Former subsec. (c) redesignated (b).

1990—Subsec. (d)(3). Pub. L. 101-510 substituted “apply in the case of voyage repairs.” for “apply—

“(A) in the case of voyage repairs; or

“(B) in the case of a vessel that is assigned to the Naval Reserve force and homeported on the West Coast of the United States.”

1987—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 100-180 amended subsec. (d) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (d) read as follows:

“(1) Notwithstanding subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary may award a contract for short-term work for the overhaul, repair, or maintenance of a naval vessel only to a contractor that is able to perform the work at the homeport of the vessel, if the Secretary determines that adequate competition is available among firms able to perform the work at the homeport of the vessel.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘short-term work’ means work that will be for a period of six months or less.”

1986—Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 99-661 added subsecs. (c) and (d).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-232 effective Feb. 1, 2019, with provision for the coordination of amendments and

voluntary removal, the Secretary shall designate, in writing, a replacement, and shall notify, in writing, the congressional defense committees of such designation.

(6) REASSIGNMENT FOR MISSION NEEDS.—Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), the Secretary may reassign a Senior Technical Authority or remove an individual from designation as a Senior Technical Authority in furtherance of Department of the Navy mission needs.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY.—Each Senior Technical Authority shall be responsible for, and have the authority to, establish, monitor, and approve technical standards, tools, and processes for the class of naval vessels for which designated under this section in conformance with applicable laws and Department of Defense and Department of the Navy policies, requirements, architectures, and standards.

(c) LIMITATION ON OBLIGATION OF FUNDS ON LEAD VESSEL IN VESSEL CLASS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On or after January 1, 2021, funds authorized to be appropriated for Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy or Other Procurement, Navy may not be obligated for the first time on the lead vessel in a class of naval vessels unless the Secretary of the Navy certifies as described in paragraph (2).

(2) CERTIFICATION ELEMENTS.—The certification on a class of naval vessels described in this paragraph is a certification containing each of the following:

(A) The name or names of the individual or individuals designated as the Senior Technical Authority for such class of vessels, and the qualifications and professional biography or biographies of the individual or individuals so designated.

(B) A description by the Senior Technical Authority of the systems engineering, technology, and ship integration risks for such class of vessels.

(C) The designation by the Senior Technical Authority of each critical hull, mechanical, electrical, propulsion, and combat system of such class of vessels, including systems relating to power generation, power distribution, and key operational mission areas.

(D) The date on which the Senior Technical Authority approved the systems engineering, engineering development, and land-based engineering and testing plans for such class of vessels.

(E) A description by the Senior Technical Authority of the key technical knowledge objectives and demonstrated system performance of each plan approved as described in subparagraph (D).

(F) A determination by the Senior Technical Authority that such plans are sufficient to achieve thorough technical knowledge of critical systems of such class of vessels before the start of detail design and construction.

(G) A determination by the Senior Technical Authority that actual execution of activities in support of such plans as of the date of the certification have been and continue to be effective and supportive of the acquisition schedule for such class of vessels.

(H) A description by the Senior Technical Authority of other technology maturation and risk reduction efforts not included in such plans for such class of vessels taken as of the date of the certification.

(I) A certification by the Senior Technical Authority that each critical system covered by subparagraph (C) has been demonstrated through testing of a prototype or identical component in its final form, fit, and function in a realistic environment.

(J) A determination by the Secretary that the plans approved as described in subparagraph (D) are fully funded and will be fully funded in the future-years defense program for the fiscal year beginning in the year in which the certification is submitted.

(K) A determination by the Secretary that the Senior Technical Authority will approve, in writing, the ship specification for such class of vessels before the request for proposals for detail design, construction, or both, as applicable, is released.

(3) DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL OF CERTIFICATION.—The certification required by this subsection with respect to a class of naval vessels shall be submitted, in writing, to the congressional defense committees not fewer than 30 days before the Secretary obligates for the first time funds authorized to be appropriated for Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy or Other Procurement, Navy for the lead vessel in such class of naval vessels.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “class of naval vessels”—

(A) means any group of similar undersea or surface craft procured with Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy or Other Procurement, Navy funds, including manned, unmanned, and optionally-manned craft; and

(B) includes—

(i) a substantially new class of craft (including craft procured using “new start” procurement); and

(ii) a class of craft undergoing a significant incremental change in its existing class (such as a next “flight” of destroyers or next “block” of attack submarines).

(2) The term “future-years defense program” has the meaning given that term in section 221 of this title.

(3) The term “Milestone A approval” has the meaning given that term in section 4211 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 116-92, div. A, title X, §1034(a), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1580; amended Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title XVIII, §1883(b)(2), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4294.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 and such date of enactment, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 116-92, which was approved Dec. 20, 2019.

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (d)(3). Pub. L. 116-283 substituted “section 4211” for “section 2431a”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2021 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 1883(b)(2) of Pub. L. 116-283 effective Jan. 1, 2022, with additional provisions for delayed implementation and applicability of existing law, see section 1801(d) of Pub. L. 116-283, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

§ 8669c. Assessments required prior to start of construction on first ship of a shipbuilding program

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Navy may not approve the start of construction of the first ship for any major shipbuilding program until a period of 15 days has elapsed following the date on which the Secretary—

(1) submits a report to the congressional defense committees on the results of any production readiness review;

(2) certifies to the congressional defense committees that the findings of any such review support the start of construction; and

(3) certifies to the congressional defense committees that at least 95 percent of all the basic and functional design drawing packages for the ship have reached final approval.

(b) REPORT.—The report required by subsection (a)(1) shall include each of the following:

(1) An identification of the degree to which detail design and production design drawings and related documents have been completed in accordance with the shipbuilding contract.

(2) An assessment of the readiness of the shipyard facilities and workforce to begin construction.

(3) The Navy's estimated delivery date and a description of any risks that could affect such delivery date.

(4) An assessment of the extent to which adequate processes and metrics are in place to measure and manage program risks.

(5) With respect to the first ship, a description of the plans of the Navy to oversee and document the construction of the ship to ensure that the detail design supports the construction schedule for the ship.

(6) A definition of the term “start of construction” that—

(A) is applicable to the first ship; and

(B) does not mean a point in time—

(i) after the completion of 5 percent of lightship displacement; or

(ii) after the advance procurement or advance construction of the ship.

(7) An identification of any fabrication of the hull and superstructure of the ship that will occur before the date on which the Secretary submits the certifications required under paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a).

(8) An identification of the extent of to which vendor- and government-furnished information supports the overall maturity and stability of the ship's design, including information regarding—

(A) whether vendor selection is complete for major distributive systems and key equipment supporting operational requirements;

(B) whether specifications are finalized for major distributive systems and key equipment; and

(C) the status of factory acceptance testing, as applicable, to validate finalized specifications for major distributive systems and key equipment through manufacturing.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of subsection (a):

(1) BASIC AND FUNCTIONAL DESIGN.—The term “basic and functional design”, when used with respect to a vessel, means design through computer aided models, and when used with respect to manned surface and undersea combatants, means design through the completion of three-dimensional computer aided modeling, that—

(A) supports the major hull structure of the vessel;

(B) sets the hydrodynamics of the vessel; and

(C) positions and routes all major distributive systems of the ship, including electricity, water, and other utilities.

(2) FIRST SHIP.—The term “first ship” applies to a ship if—

(A) the ship is the first ship to be constructed under that shipbuilding program; or

(B) the shipyard at which the ship is to be constructed has not previously started construction on a ship under that shipbuilding program.

(3) MAJOR SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM.—The term “major shipbuilding program” means a program for the construction of combatant and support vessels required for the naval vessel force, as reported within the annual naval vessel construction plan required by section 231 of this title.

(4) PRODUCTION READINESS REVIEW.—The term “production readiness review” means a formal examination of a program prior to the start of construction to determine if the design is ready for production, production engineering problems have been resolved, and the producer has accomplished adequate planning for the production phase.

(Added Pub. L. 117-81, div. A, title X, §1013(a), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 1892; amended Pub. L. 118-159, div. A, title X, §1024, Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 2053.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2024—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 118-159, §1024(1)(A), substituted “15 days” for “30 days” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 118-159, §1024(1)(B), substituted “the start” for “commencement”.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 118-159, §1024(1)(C), inserted “at least 95 percent of all” before “the basic” and substituted “drawing packages for the ship have reached final approval” for “of the vessel is complete”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 118-159, §1024(2)(A), struck out “, at a minimum, an assessment of” after “include” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b)(1) to (8). Pub. L. 118-159, §1024(2)(B), added pars. (1) to (8) and struck out former pars. (1) to (6) which read as follows:

“(1) The maturity of the ship's design, as measured by stability of the ship contract specifications and the degree of completion of detail design and production design drawings.