

§ 10305. Manner of signing agreement

The agreement required by section 10302 of this title shall be signed—

- (1) first by the master and dated at that time, after which each seaman shall sign; and
(2) in the presence of the master or individual in charge.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 563; Pub. L. 103-206, title IV, §403, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2436.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 2 columns: Revised section, Source section (U.S. Code). Row 1: 10305, 46:565

Section 10305 describes the procedures for signing the shipping agreement, and for keeping official records of the agreement. It also requires that the agreement include a statement that the seaman understand its provisions, and did so while sober.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103-206 struck out “(a)” before “The agreement”, substituted “the master or individual in charge” for “a shipping commissioner” in par. (2), and struck out subsecs. (b) and (c) which read as follows:

“(b) When the crew is first engaged, the agreement shall be signed in duplicate. One of the copies shall be retained by the shipping commissioner. The other copy shall contain space for the description and signatures of seamen engaged subsequent to the first making of the agreement, and shall be delivered to the master.

“(c) An agreement signed before a shipping commissioner shall be acknowledged and signed by the commissioner on the agreement in the manner and form prescribed by regulation. The acknowledgment and certification shall include a statement by the commissioner that the seaman—

- “(1) has read the agreement;
“(2) is acquainted with and understands its conditions; and
“(3) has signed it freely and voluntarily when sober.”

§ 10306. Exhibiting merchant mariners’ documents

Before signing the agreement required by section 10302 of this title, each individual required by section 8701 of this title to have a merchant mariner’s document shall exhibit to the master or individual in charge a document issued to the individual, appropriately endorsed for the capacity in which the individual is to serve.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 564; Pub. L. 103-206, title IV, §404, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2436.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 2 columns: Revised section, Source section (U.S. Code). Row 1: 10306, 46:643(c)

Section 10306 requires a seaman to exhibit an appropriately endorsed merchant mariner’s document to the shipping commissioner before signing a shipping agreement. When a master acts as a shipping commissioner, the same procedure applies.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103-206 substituted “master or individual in charge” for “shipping commissioner”.

§ 10307. Posting agreements

At the beginning of a voyage, the master shall have a legible copy of the agreement required by section 10302 of this title, omitting signatures, exhibited in a part of the vessel accessible to the crew.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 564; Pub. L. 103-206, title IV, §405, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2436.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 2 columns: Revised section, Source section (U.S. Code). Row 1: 10307, 46:577

Section 10307 requires the master to post a copy of the shipping agreement in a part of the vessel accessible to the crew prior to the commencement of a voyage. The posting must be done in a manner that gives seamen adequate notice of the particulars of the pending voyage.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103-206 struck out at end “A master violating this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of \$100.”

§ 10308. Foreign engagements

When a seaman is engaged outside the United States, the agreement required by section 10302 of this title shall be signed in the presence of a consular officer. If a consular officer is not available at the port of engagement, the seaman may be engaged, and the agreement shall be signed in the next port at which a consular officer is available.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 564; Pub. L. 103-206, title IV, §406, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2436.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 2 columns: Revised section, Source section (U.S. Code). Row 1: 10308, 46:570

Section 10308 requires that shipping agreements made in foreign ports be signed in the presence of a consular officer. The penalty for violation of this section is \$100.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103-206 struck out “(a)” before “When a seaman” and struck out subsec. (b) which read as follows: “A master engaging a seaman in violation of this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of \$100. The vessel also is liable in rem for the penalty.”

§ 10309. Engaging seamen to replace those lost by desertion or casualty

(a) If a desertion or casualty results in the loss of at least one seaman, the master shall engage, if obtainable, a number equal to the number of seamen of whose services the master has been deprived. The new seaman must have at least the same grade or rating as the seaman whose place the new seaman fills. The master shall report the loss and replacement to a consular officer at the first port at which the master arrives.

(b) This section does not apply to a fishing or whaling vessel or a yacht.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 564; Pub. L. 103-206, title IV, §407, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2436.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised section</i> | <i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10309 .....            | 46:569                            |

Section 10309 provides for the replacement of seamen lost by desertion or casualty. It does not apply to fishing vessels, whaling vessels, or yachts.

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

1993—Subsecs. (b), (c). Pub. L. 103-206 redesignated subsec. (c) as (b) and struck out former subsec. (b) which read as follows: “The master is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of \$200 for each report not made. The vessel also is liable in rem for the penalty.”

**§ 10310. Discharge**

A master shall deliver to a seaman a full and true account of the seaman’s wages and all deductions at least 48 hours before paying off or discharging the seaman.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 564; Pub. L. 103-206, title IV, §408, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2436.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised section</i> | <i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10310 .....            | 46:641<br>46:642                  |

Section 10310 requires the master of a vessel to give each seaman a full account of the seaman’s wages 48 hours before discharge. The penalty for violation is \$50.

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103-206 struck out “or a shipping commissioner” after “to a seaman” and struck out at end “A master failing to deliver the account is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of \$50.”

**§ 10311. Certificates of discharge**

(a) On discharging a seaman and paying the seaman’s wages, the master or individual in charge shall provide the seaman with a certificate of discharge. The form of the certificate shall be prescribed by regulation. It shall contain—

- (1) the name of the seaman;
- (2) the citizenship or nationality of the seaman;
- (3) the number of the seaman’s merchant mariner’s document;
- (4) the name and official number of the vessel;
- (5) the nature of the voyage (foreign, inter-coastal, or coastwise);
- (6) the propulsion class of the vessel;
- (7) the date and place of engagement;
- (8) the date and place of discharge; and
- (9) the seaman’s capacity on the voyage.

(b) The certificate of discharge may not contain a reference about the character or ability of

the seaman. The certificate shall be signed by the master and the seaman.

(c) A certificate of discharge may not be issued if the seaman holds a continuous discharge book. The entries shall be made in the discharge book in the same manner as the entries required by subsection (a) of this section.

(d)(1) A record of each discharge shall be maintained by the owner, charterer, managing operator, master, or individual in charge in the manner and location prescribed by regulation. The records may not be open for general or public use or inspection.

(2) A duplicate of a record of discharge shall be issued to a seaman at the request of the seaman.

(e) This section does not apply to a fishing or whaling vessel or a yacht.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 564; Pub. L. 103-206, title IV, §409, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2436.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised section</i> | <i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10311 .....            | 46:643                            |

Section 10311 requires a shipping commissioner, when discharging a seaman, either to provide the seaman with a certificate of discharge or to make an entry in the seaman’s continuous discharge book. It requires that certain facts be included in the certificate or in the entry, prohibits other information from being included, and requires the Secretary to keep records of all discharges, copies of which must be furnished to seamen at cost upon request. These discharges are used to substantiate the nature and duration of the seaman’s employment on a particular vessel. This section does not apply to fishing vessels, whaling vessels, or yachts.

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

1993—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-206, §409(1), substituted “master or individual in charge” for “shipping commissioner”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-206, §409(2), substituted “by the master and the seaman” for “by the master, the seaman, and the shipping commissioner as witness”.

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 103-206, §409(3), substituted “owner, charterer, managing operator, master, or individual in charge” for “Secretary”.

Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 103-206, §409(4), substituted “at the request of the seaman” for “at a cost prescribed by regulation”.

**§ 10312. Settlements on discharge**

When discharge and settlement are completed, the master, individual in charge, or owner and each seaman shall sign the agreement required by section 10302 of this title.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 565; Pub. L. 103-206, title IV, §410, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2437.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised section</i>       | <i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10312(a), (b), (d)-(f) ..... | 46:644                            |
| 10312(c) .....               | 46:652                            |

Section 10312 outlines the procedures for settlements upon discharge and for settling disputes over seamen’s wages and discharges.