

prescribed by the Secretary (including regulations on special operating conditions), the Secretary finds that—

- (1) good cause exists for granting an exemption; and
- (2) the safety of the vessel and individuals on board will not be adversely affected.

(b) Section 4102(a) of this title does not apply to a vessel propelled by outboard motors when competing in a race previously arranged and announced or, if the vessel is designed and intended only for racing, when operated incidental to tuning up the vessel and its engines for the race.

(Pub. L. 98–89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 529; Pub. L. 100–540, § 2, Oct. 28, 1988, 102 Stat. 2719.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i>
4103	46:525h

Section 4103 contains an exemption from carrying fire extinguishers, for on a vessel competing in an organized race or a vessel designed and intended for racing only.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1988—Pub. L. 100–540 added subsec. (a) and designated existing provisions as subsec. (b).

[§ 4104. Repealed. Pub. L. 101–595, title VI, § 603(3)(A), Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2993]

Section, Pub. L. 98–89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 529, required Secretary to prescribe regulations to carry out provisions of this chapter.

§ 4105. Uninspected passenger vessels

(a) Chapter 43 of this title applies to an uninspected passenger vessel.

(b)(1) In applying this title with respect to an uninspected vessel of less than 24 meters overall in length that carries passengers to or from a port in the United States Virgin Islands, the Secretary shall substitute “12 passengers” for “6 passengers” each place it appears in section 2101 if the Secretary determines that the vessel complies with, as applicable to the vessel—

- (A) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Motor Vessels (commonly referred to as the “Yellow Code”), as published by the U.K. Maritime and Coastguard Agency and in effect on January 1, 2014; or
- (B) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Sailing Vessels (commonly referred to as the “Blue Code”), as published by such agency and in effect on such date.

(2) If the Secretary establishes standards to carry out this subsection—

- (A) such standards shall be identical to those established in the Codes of Practice referred to in paragraph (1); and
- (B) on any dates before the date on which such standards are in effect, the Codes of Practice referred to in paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to the vessels referred to in paragraph (1).

(c) In applying this title with respect to an uninspected vessel of less than 25 feet overall in

length that carries passengers on Crane Lake or waters contiguous to such lake in St. Louis County, Minnesota, the Secretary shall substitute “12 passengers” for “6 passengers” each place it appears in section 2101.

(d) The Secretary shall, by regulation, require certain additional equipment which may include liferafts or other lifesaving equipment, construction standards, or specify additional operating standards for those uninspected passenger vessels defined in section 2101(53)(A) of this title.

(Pub. L. 98–89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 529; Pub. L. 103–206, title V, § 511(b), Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2442; Pub. L. 113–281, title III, § 319, Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 3051; Pub. L. 115–232, div. C, title XXXV, § 3541(b)(10), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 2323; Pub. L. 115–282, title V, § 502, Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4269; Pub. L. 117–263, div. K, title CXVI, § 11601(c)(2), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 4146.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i>
4105	46:1452 46:1453

Section 4105 provides that an uninspected passenger vessel is subject to Chapter 43, as a recreational vessel even when it is carrying not more than six passengers.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2022—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 117–263, § 11601(c)(2)(A), substituted “section 2101” for “section 2101(51)” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 117–263, § 11601(c)(2)(A), substituted “section 2101” for “section 2101(51)”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 117–263, § 11601(c)(2)(B), substituted “section 2101(53)(A)” for “section 2101(51)(A)”.

2018—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 115–232, § 3541(b)(10)(A), substituted “section 2101(51)” for “section 2101(42)” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115–282, § 502(2), added subsec. (c). Former subsec. (c) redesignated (d).

Pub. L. 115–232, § 3541(b)(10)(B), substituted “section 2101(51)(A)” for “section 2101(42)(A)”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 115–282, § 502(1), redesignated subsec. (c) as (d).

2014—Subsecs. (b), (c). Pub. L. 113–281 added subsec. (b), redesignated former subsec. (b) as (c), and in subsec. (c) substituted “The” for “Within twenty-four months of the date of enactment of this subsection, the”.

1993—Pub. L. 103–206 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

§ 4106. Penalties

If a vessel to which this chapter applies is operated in violation of this chapter or a regulation prescribed under this chapter, the owner, charterer, managing operator, agent, master, and individual in charge are each liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000. The vessel also is liable in rem for the penalty.

(Pub. L. 98–89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 529; Pub. L. 100–540, § 3, Oct. 28, 1988, 102 Stat. 2719.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i>
4106	46:526o

Section 4106 provides a civil penalty of \$100 for a violation of this chapter or a regulation under this chapter. The vessel also is liable in rem.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1988—Pub. L. 100-540 substituted “not more than \$5,000” for “\$100”.

CHAPTER 43—RECREATIONAL VESSELS

- Sec. 4301. Application.
- 4302. Regulations.
- 4303. Inspection and testing.
- 4304. Importation of nonconforming vessels and equipment.
- 4305. Exemptions and equivalents.
- 4306. Federal preemption.
- 4307. Prohibited acts.
- 4308. Termination of unsafe operation.
- 4309. Investigation and reporting.
- 4310. Repair and replacement of defects.
- 4311. Penalties and injunctions.
- 4312. Engine cut-off switches.

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Chapter 43 contains the laws applicable to recreational vessels, which originated primarily with the enactment of the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-75, 85 Stat. 213). That Act embraced a number of activities, but the portion restated in this chapter deals with the establishment of national construction and performance standards for recreational vessels and their associated equipment, the necessary flexible regulatory authority for inspection and testing, Federal preemption, certain necessary prohibited acts, enforcement authority, investigation and reporting requirements, procedures for repair and defect notification, and attendant penalties and injunctive relief. These laws are a direct response to the dramatic increase in the number of recreational boats and the Congressional recognition of the maritime safety problems that recreational boating has imposed upon our more than 25 million miles of waterways.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 116-283, div. G, title LVXXXIII [LXXXIII], §8318(b), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4700, substituted “Exemptions and equivalents” for “Exemptions” in item 4305.

2018—Pub. L. 115-282, title V, §503(b), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4271, added item 4312.

§ 4301. Application

(a) This chapter applies to a recreational vessel and associated equipment carried in the vessel on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States (including the territorial sea of the United States as described in Presidential Proclamation No. 5928 of December 27, 1988) and, for a vessel owned in the United States, on the high seas.

(b) Except when expressly otherwise provided, this chapter does not apply to a foreign vessel temporarily operating on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(c) Until there is a final judicial decision that they are navigable waters of the United States, the following waters lying entirely in New Hampshire are declared not to be waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States within the meaning of this section: Lake Winnisquam,

Lake Winnepesaukee, parts of the Merrimack River, and their tributary and connecting waters.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 529; Pub. L. 105-383, title III, §301(b)(4), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3417.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i>
4301	46:1453

Section 4301 provides that this chapter is applicable to a recreational vessel that operates on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or that is owned in the United States and while operating on the high seas.

It also provides that a foreign recreational vessel that temporarily uses our waters is not subject to the requirements of this chapter. However, if the vessel remains permanently in the United States, it would be subject to the provisions of this chapter.

Section 4301(c) recognizes the ongoing controversy over the navigability of certain waters of New Hampshire. While a recreational vessel operating on these waters need not meet the requirements of this chapter, it would be prohibited from operating on any other waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States if it does not comply with these requirements.

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Presidential Proclamation No. 5928, referred to in subsec. (a), is set out under section 1331 of Title 43, Public Lands.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-383 inserted “(including the territorial sea of the United States as described in Presidential Proclamation No. 5928 of December 27, 1988)” after “of the United States”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective Apr. 15, 1984, see section 2(g)(1) of Pub. L. 98-89, set out as a note under section 3101 of this title.

§ 4302. Regulations

(a) The Secretary may prescribe regulations—
(1) establishing minimum safety standards for recreational vessels and associated equipment, and establishing procedures and tests required to measure conformance with those standards, with each standard—

(A) meeting the need for recreational vessel safety; and

(B) being stated, insofar as practicable, in terms of performance;

(2) requiring the installation, carrying, or use of associated equipment (including fuel systems, ventilation systems, electrical systems, sound-producing devices, firefighting equipment, lifesaving devices, signaling devices, ground tackle, life- and grab-rails, and navigational equipment) on recreational vessels and classes of recreational vessels subject to this chapter, and prohibiting the installation, carrying, or use of associated equipment that does not conform with safety standards established under this section; and