

ble requirements of that categorical exclusion have been met that are in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and any other applicable law. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to limit any existing authority of the Maritime Administration to approve, promulgate, or publish categorical exclusions consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or any other applicable law. (Added Pub. L. 118-159, div. C, title XXXV, § 3511(b)(1), Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 2306.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 91-190, Jan. 1, 1970, 83 Stat. 852, which is classified generally to chapter 55 (§ 4321 et seq.) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4321 of Title 42 and Tables.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

ESTABLISHING APPLICABLE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS

Pub. L. 118-159, div. C, title XXXV, § 3511(c), Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 2306, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section [Dec. 23, 2024], the Maritime Administrator shall issue a notice in the Federal Register including the categorical exclusions in use as of the date of enactment of this section by the Maritime Administration for actions or projects the Maritime Administration oversees. The Maritime Administrator may subsequently update such categorical exclusions. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to limit any existing authority of the Maritime Administration to approve, promulgate, or publish categorical exclusions consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or any other applicable law.

“(2) SURVEY AND PROPOSED RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Maritime Administrator shall—

“(A) survey the use of categorical exclusions by the Maritime Administration with respect to projects initiated during or after 2015;

“(B) publish on a public website the results of that survey, which shall include a description of the types of actions categorically excluded and any additional categorical exclusions that were legally available to the Maritime Administrator from other operating administrations and the Department of the Army but were or were not adopted; and

“(C) publish a notice of proposed rulemaking to propose new Maritime Administration categorical exclusions for projects and a process by which the Maritime Administration will update the list of categorical exclusions to reflect lessons learned in grant administration and project construction.

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘categorical exclusion’ has the meaning given the term in section 111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e).

“(B) PROJECT.—The term ‘project’ means an eligible project as described in section 54301(a)(3) of title 46, United States Code.”

**PART B—MERCHANT MARINE SERVICE**

**CHAPTER 511—GENERAL**

Sec.  
51101. Policy.

Sec.  
51102. Definitions.  
51103. General authority of Secretary of Transportation.  
51104. General authority of Secretary of the Navy.

**§ 51101. Policy**

It is the policy of the United States that merchant marine vessels of the United States should be operated by highly trained and efficient citizens of the United States and that the United States Navy and the merchant marine of the United States should work closely together to promote the maximum integration of the total seapower forces of the United States.

(Pub. L. 109-304, § 8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1568.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
51101 .....	46 App.:1126-1(a) (1st sentence). 46 App.:1295 (1st sentence).	Pub. L. 94-361, title VI, § 603(a) (1st sentence), July 14, 1976, 90 Stat. 929. June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XIII, § 1301 (1st sentence), as added Pub. L. 96-453, § 2, Oct. 15, 1980, 94 Stat. 1997.

**§ 51102. Definitions**

In this part:

(1) ACADEMY.—The term “Academy” means the United States Merchant Marine Academy located at Kings Point, New York, and maintained under chapter 513 of this title.

(2) COST OF EDUCATION PROVIDED.—The term “cost of education provided” means the financial costs incurred by the United States Government for providing training or financial assistance to students at the Academy and the State maritime academies, including direct financial assistance, room, board, classroom academics, and other training activities.

(3) MERCHANT MARINE OFFICER.—The term “merchant marine officer” means an individual issued a license by the Coast Guard authorizing service as—

(A) a master, mate, or pilot on a documented vessel that—

(i) is of at least 1,000 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; and

(ii) operates on the oceans or the Great Lakes; or

(B) an engineer officer on a documented vessel propelled by machinery of at least 4,000 horsepower.

(4) STATE MARITIME ACADEMY.—The term “State maritime academy” means—

(A) a State maritime academy or college sponsored by a State and assisted under chapter 515 of this title; and

(B) a regional maritime academy or college sponsored by a group of States and assisted under chapter 515 of this title.

(Pub. L. 109-304, § 8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1568.)