

(B) A court may allow a still image or a part of a cockpit or surface vehicle recorder transcript not made available to the public under section 1114(c) or 1114(d) of this title or a cockpit or surface vehicle recorder recording to be admitted into evidence in a judicial proceeding, only if the court places the still image, the part of the transcript, or the recording under seal to prevent the use of the still image, the part of the transcript, or the recording for purposes other than for the proceeding.

(5) This subsection does not prevent the Board from referring at any time to cockpit or surface vehicle recorder information in making safety recommendations.

(6) In this subsection:

(A) RECORDER.—The term “recorder” means a voice or video recorder.

(B) STILL IMAGE.—The term “still image” means any still image obtained from a video recorder.

(C) TRANSCRIPT.—The term “transcript” includes any written depiction of visual information obtained from a video recorder.

(b) REPORTS.—No part of a report of the Board, related to an accident or an investigation of an accident, may be admitted into evidence or used in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(d), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 757; Pub. L. 106–424, §5(c)(1), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1885; Pub. L. 115–254, div. C, §1104(b), Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3430.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
1154(a)	49 App.:1905(c)(3), (d).	Jan. 3, 1975, Pub. L. 93–633, 88 Stat. 2156, §306(c)(3), (d); added Oct. 14, 1982, Pub. L. 97–309, §2, 96 Stat. 1453; restated Nov. 28, 1990, Pub. L. 101–641, §4, 104 Stat. 4655.
1154(b)	49 App.:1441(e). 49 App.:1655(d) (1st sentence). 49 App.:1903(a)(1)(A), (c).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85–726, §701(e), 72 Stat. 781. Oct. 15, 1966, Pub. L. 89–670, §6(d) (1st sentence), 80 Stat. 938. Jan. 3, 1975, Pub. L. 93–633, §304(a)(1)(A), (c), 88 Stat. 2168, 2171.

In subsection (a), the word “transcript” is substituted for “transcriptions” for clarity.

In subsection (a)(1)(A), the words “that the National Transportation Safety Board has not made available to the public” are substituted for “other than such portions made available to the public by the Board” for clarity.

In subsection (a)(2)(B), the words “prepared by or under the direction of the Board” are omitted as unnecessary and for consistency with the source provisions restated in this subsection.

In subsection (b), the words “civil action” are substituted for “suit or action” in 49 App.:1441(e) and 1903(c) for consistency with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 App. U.S.C.).

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115–254, §1104(b)(1), substituted “In General” for “Transcripts and Recordings” in heading.

Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 115–254, §1104(b)(2), added subpar. (A) and redesignated former subpars. (A) and (B) as (B) and (C), respectively.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 115–254, §1104(b)(3), substituted “recorder recording, including with regard to a video recording any still image that the National Transportation Safety Board has not made available to the public under section 1114(c) or 1114(d) of this title,” for “recorder recording” in introductory provisions and in subpar. (B).

Subsec. (a)(4)(A). Pub. L. 115–254, §1104(b)(4), inserted “a still image or” before “a part of a cockpit” in introductory provisions and substituted “the still image, the part of the transcript, or the recording” for “the part of the transcript or the recording” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (a)(4)(B). Pub. L. 115–254, §1104(b)(4)(B), inserted “a still image or” before “a part of a cockpit” and substituted “the still image, the part of the transcript, or the recording” for “the part of the transcript or the recording” in two places.

Subsec. (a)(6)(B), (C). Pub. L. 115–254, §1104(b)(5), added subpar. (B) and redesignated former subpar. (B) as (C).

2000—Pub. L. 106–424, §5(c)(1)(A), substituted “and surface vehicle recordings and transcripts” for “voice and other material” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106–424, §5(c)(1)(B), substituted “cockpit or surface vehicle recorder” for “cockpit voice recorder” wherever appearing.

Pub. L. 106–424, §5(c)(1)(C), substituted “section 1114(c) or 1114(d)” for “section 1114(c)” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 106–424, §5(c)(1)(D), which directed the amendment of this section by adding par. (6) at the end, was executed by adding par. (6) at the end of subsec. (a) to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

§ 1155. Penalties

(a) CIVIL PENALTY.—(1) A person violating section 1132, section 1134(b), section 1134(f)(1), section 1136(g), or section 1139(g) of this title or a regulation prescribed or order issued under any of those sections is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000. A separate violation occurs for each day a violation continues.

(2) This subsection does not apply to a member of the armed forces of the United States or an employee of the Department of Defense subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice when the member or employee is performing official duties. The appropriate military authorities are responsible for taking necessary disciplinary action and submitting to the National Transportation Safety Board a timely report on action taken.

(3) The Board may compromise the amount of a civil penalty imposed under this subsection.

(4) The Government may deduct the amount of a civil penalty imposed or compromised under this subsection from amounts it owes the person liable for the penalty.

(5) A civil penalty under this subsection may be collected by bringing a civil action against the person liable for the penalty. The action shall conform as nearly as practicable to a civil action in admiralty.

(b) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—A person that knowingly and without authority removes, conceals, or withholds a part of a civil aircraft involved in an accident, or property on the aircraft at the time of the accident, shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(d), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 758; Pub. L. 104–264, title VII, §702(b), Oct. 9, 1996, 110

Stat. 3267; Pub. L. 118-63, title XII, § 1216(a), May 16, 2024, 138 Stat. 1431.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
1155(a)(1), (2).	49 App.:1471(a)(1) (related to subchapter VII).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85-726, § 901(a)(1) (related to title VII), 72 Stat. 783; restated July 10, 1962, Pub. L. 87-528, § 12, 76 Stat. 149; Aug. 5, 1974, Pub. L. 93-366, § 107, 88 Stat. 414; Jan. 3, 1975, Pub. L. 93-633, § 113(b), 88 Stat. 2162.
	49 App.:1655(d) (1st sentence).	Oct. 15, 1966, Pub. L. 89-670, § 6(d) (1st sentence), 80 Stat. 938.
	49 App.:1903(a)(1)(A).	Jan. 3, 1975, Pub. L. 93-633, § 304(a)(1)(A), 88 Stat. 2168.
1155(a)(3), (4).	49 App.:1471(a)(2) (related to subchapter VII).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85-726, § 901(a)(2) (related to title VII), 72 Stat. 784; July 10, 1962, Pub. L. 87-528, § 12, 76 Stat. 150; restated Oct. 24, 1978, Pub. L. 95-504, § 35(b), 92 Stat. 1740.
	49 App.:1655(d) (1st sentence).	
	49 App.:1903(a)(1)(A).	
1155(a)(5)	49 App.:1473(b)(1).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85-726, § 903(b)(1), 72 Stat. 786; Oct. 24, 1978, Pub. L. 95-504, § 36, 92 Stat. 1741.
	49 App.:1473(b)(4).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85-726, § 903(b)(4), 72 Stat. 787.
	49 App.:1655(d) (1st sentence).	
	49 App.:1903(a)(1)(A).	
1155(b)	49 App.:1472(p).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85-726, 72 Stat. 731, § 902(p); added Oct. 15, 1962, Pub. L. 87-810, § 4, 76 Stat. 921; Aug. 5, 1974, Pub. L. 93-366, § 103(b), 88 Stat. 410; Dec. 30, 1987, Pub. L. 100-223, § 204(e), 101 Stat. 1520.

In subsection (a)(1), the words “section 1132 or 1134(b) or (f)(1) (related to an aircraft accident) of this title” are substituted for “any provision of subchapter . . . VII . . . of this chapter” in 49 App.:1471(a)(1) because those sections restate the relevant source provisions of 49 App.:ch. 20 carried out by the Board. The words “regulation prescribed or order issued under either of those sections” are substituted for “rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder” for clarity and consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code and because “rule” and “regulation” are synonymous. The words “liable to the United States Government” are substituted for “subject to” for clarity. The words “for each such violation” are omitted as unnecessary because of 18:1.

In subsection (a)(2), the word “civilian” is omitted as unnecessary. The words “with respect thereto” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (a)(4), the words “imposed or compromised” are substituted for “finally determined or fixed by order of the Board, or the amount agreed upon in compromise” in 49 App.:1471(a)(2) for consistency and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (a)(5), the words “imposed or assessed” are omitted as surplus. The words “civil action against the person” are substituted for “proceedings in personam against the person” in 49 App.:1473(b)(1) for consistency with rule 2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 App. U.S.C.) and to eliminate unnecessary words. The text of 49 App.:1473(b)(1) (1st sentence words after 1st comma and last sentence) is omitted as unnecessary because penalties imposed by the National Transportation Safety Board do not involve liens on aircraft. The text of 49 App.:1473(b)(4) is omitted as unnecessary because of 28:ch. 131.

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Uniform Code of Military Justice, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is classified generally to chapter 47 (§ 801 et seq.) of Title 10, Armed Forces.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior chapter 31 (§§ 3101-3104) of subtitle II redesignated and restated as chapter 315 (§§ 31501-31504) of subtitle VI of this title by Pub. L. 103-272, § 1(c), (e).

AMENDMENTS

2024—Pub. L. 118-63, § 1216(a)(1), substituted “Penalties” for “Aviation penalties” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 118-63, § 1216(a)(2), substituted “section 1136(g), or section 1139(g)” for “or section 1136(g) (related to an aircraft accident)”.

1996—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 104-264 substituted “, section 1134(b), section 1134(f)(1), or section 1136(g)” for “or 1134(b) or (f)(1)” and “any of” for “either of”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Except as otherwise specifically provided, amendment by Pub. L. 104-264 applicable only to fiscal years beginning after Sept. 30, 1996, and not to be construed as affecting funds made available for a fiscal year ending before Oct. 1, 1996, see section 3 of Pub. L. 104-264, set out as a note under section 106 of this title.

CHAPTER 13—SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

I—ESTABLISHMENT¹

Sec.	
1301.	Establishment of Board
1302.	Functions.
1303.	Administrative provisions.
1304.	Reports.
1305.	Authorization of appropriations.
1306.	Reporting official action.
	II—ADMINISTRATIVE ¹
1321.	Powers.
1322.	Board action.
1323.	Service of notice in Board proceedings.
1324.	Service of process in court proceedings.
1325.	Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council.
1326.	Authority of the Inspector General.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2015—Pub. L. 114-110, §§ 3(a)(1), (2), 10, Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2228, 2233, renumbered chapter 7 of this title as this chapter and amended analysis generally, substituting items 1301 to 1306 and 1321 to 1326 for former items 701 to 706 and 721 to 727, respectively.

SUBCHAPTER I—ESTABLISHMENT

§ 1301. Establishment of Board

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Surface Transportation Board is an independent establishment of the United States Government.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—(1) The Board shall consist of 5 members, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Not more than 3 members may be appointed from the same political party.

¹So in original. Does not conform to subchapter heading since word “SUBCHAPTER” does not appear.