

In subsection (d)(2), the words “lease or instrument” are substituted for “instrument” for clarity and consistency in this subchapter.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 108–297 inserted “or the Cape Town Treaty, as applicable” before period at end.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 108–297 effective Mar. 1, 2006, and not applicable to any registration or recordation that was made before such date under this chapter or any legal rights relating to such registration or recordation, see section 7 of Pub. L. 108–297, set out as a note under section 44101 of this title.

§ 44109. Reporting transfer of ownership

(a) FILING NOTICES.—A person having an ownership interest in an aircraft for which a certificate of registration was issued under section 44103 of this title shall file a notice with the Secretary of the Treasury that the Secretary requires by regulation, not later than 15 days after a sale, conditional sale, transfer, or conveyance of the interest.

(b) EXEMPTIONS.—The Secretary—

(1) shall prescribe regulations that establish guidelines for exempting a person or class from subsection (a) of this section; and

(2) may exempt a person or class under the regulations.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1166.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
44109(a)	49 App.:1509(f).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85–726, 72 Stat. 731, §1109(f); added Oct. 27, 1986, Pub. L. 99–570, §3401(d)(1), 100 Stat. 3207–101.
44109(b)	49 App.:1509 (note).	Oct. 27, 1986, Pub. L. 99–570, §3401(d)(2), 100 Stat. 3207–102.

In subsection (a), the text of 49 App.:1509(f) (last sentence) is omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (b)(1), the words “Within 30 days after the date of enactment of subsection (f) of section 1109 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 as added by this subsection” are omitted as obsolete.

§ 44110. Information about aircraft ownership and rights

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may provide by regulation for—

(1) endorsing information on each certificate of registration issued under section 44103 of this title and each certificate issued under section 44704 of this title about ownership of the aircraft for which each certificate is issued; and

(2) recording transactions affecting an interest in, and for other records, proceedings, and details necessary to decide the rights of a party related to, a civil aircraft of the United States, aircraft engine, propeller, appliance, or spare part.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1166.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
44110	49 App.:1403(g). 49 App.:1655(c)(1).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85–726, §503(g), 72 Stat. 774. Oct. 15, 1966, Pub. L. 89–670, §6(c)(1), 80 Stat. 938; Jan. 12, 1983, Pub. L. 97–449, §7(b), 96 Stat. 2444.

In clause (1), the words “each certificate of registration issued under section 44103 of this title and each certificate issued under section 44704 of this title” are substituted for “certificates of registration, or aircraft certificates” for clarity and because of the restatement.

In clause (2), the words “recording transactions” are substituted for “recording of discharges and satisfactions of recorded instruments, and other transactions” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “title to” are omitted as being included in “interest in”. The words “to decide” are substituted for “to facilitate the determination” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “related to” are substituted for “dealing with” for clarity. The word “spare” is added for consistency in this section.

§ 44111. Modifications in registration and recordation system for aircraft not providing air transportation

(a) APPLICATION.—This section applies only to aircraft not used to provide air transportation.

(b) AUTHORITY TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall make modifications in the system for registering and recording aircraft necessary to make the system more effective in serving the needs of—

(1) buyers and sellers of aircraft;

(2) officials responsible for enforcing laws related to the regulation of controlled substances (as defined in section 102 of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 (21 U.S.C. 802)); and

(3) other users of the system.

(c) NATURE OF MODIFICATIONS.—Modifications made under subsection (b) of this section—

(1) may include a system of titling aircraft or registering all aircraft, even aircraft not operated;

(2) shall ensure positive, verifiable, and timely identification of the true owner; and

(3) shall address at least each of the following deficiencies in and abuses of the existing system:

(A) the registration of aircraft to fictitious persons.

(B) the use of false or nonexistent addresses by persons registering aircraft.

(C) the use by a person registering an aircraft of a post office box or “mail drop” as a return address to evade identification of the person’s address.

(D) the registration of aircraft to entities established to facilitate unlawful activities.

(E) the submission of names of individuals on applications for registration of aircraft that are not identifiable.

(F) the ability to make frequent legal changes in the registration markings assigned to aircraft.

(G) the use of false registration markings on aircraft.

(H) the illegal use of “reserved” registration markings on aircraft.

(I) the large number of aircraft classified as being in “self-reported status”.

(J) the lack of a system to ensure timely and adequate notice of the transfer of ownership of aircraft.

(K) the practice of allowing temporary operation and navigation of aircraft without the issuance of a certificate of registration.

(d) REGULATIONS.—(1) The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section and provide a written explanation of how the regulations address each of the deficiencies and abuses described in subsection (c) of this section. In prescribing the regulations, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall consult with the Administrator of Drug Enforcement, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, other law enforcement officials of the United States Government, representatives of State and local law enforcement officials, representatives of the general aviation aircraft industry, representatives of users of general aviation aircraft, and other interested persons.

(2) Regulations prescribed under this subsection shall require that—

(A) each individual listed in an application for registration of an aircraft provide with the application the individual’s driver’s license number; and

(B) each person (not an individual) listed in an application for registration of an aircraft provide with the application the person’s taxpayer identifying number.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1166; Pub. L. 114–125, title VIII, §802(d)(2), Feb. 24, 2016, 130 Stat. 210.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
44111(a)	49 App.:1303 (note).	Nov. 11, 1988, Pub. L. 100–690, §7214, 102 Stat. 4434.
44111(b)	49 App.:1401(h) (1st sentence).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85–726, 72 Stat. 731, §501(h); added Nov. 11, 1988, Pub. L. 100–690, §7203(a), 102 Stat. 4424.
44111(c)	49 App.:1401(h) (last sentence).	
44111(d)	49 App.:1401 (note).	Nov. 18, 1988, Pub. L. 100–690, §7207(a), (b), 102 Stat. 4427.

In subsection (c)(3)(D), the words “corporations and others” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (d)(1), the words “Not later than September 18, 1989” and “final” are omitted as obsolete. The words “Administrator of Drug Enforcement” are substituted for “Drug Enforcement Administration of the Department of Justice” because of section 5(a) of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1973 (eff. July 1, 1973, 87 Stat. 1092).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

CHANGE OF NAME

“Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection” substituted for “Commissioner of Customs” in subsec. (d)(1) on authority of section 802(d)(2) of Pub. L. 114–125, set out as a note under section 211 of Title 6, Domestic Security.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the United States Customs Service of the Department of the Treasury, including functions of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 203(1), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6. For establishment of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the Department of Homeland Security, treated as if included in Pub. L. 107–296 as of Nov. 25, 2002, see section 211 of Title 6, as amended generally by Pub. L. 114–125, and section 802(b) of Pub. L. 114–125, set out as a note under section 211 of Title 6.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT STATUS AND PROGRESS; REPORTS TO CONGRESS; DEFINITIONS

Pub. L. 100–690, title VII, §7207(d), (e), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4428, provided that:

“(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subtitle [Nov. 18, 1988] and annually thereafter during the 5-year period beginning on such 180th day, the Administrator shall prepare and transmit to Congress a report on the following:

“(1) The status of the rulemaking process, issuance of regulations, and implementation of regulations in accordance with this section [see subsec. (d) of this section].

“(2) The progress being made in reducing the number of aircraft classified by the Federal Aviation Administration as being in ‘sale-reported status’.

“(3) The progress being made in expediting the filing and processing of forms for major repairs and alterations of fuel tanks and fuel systems of aircraft.

“(4) The status of establishing and collecting fees under section 313(f) of the Federal Aviation Act [see section 45302(b) of this title].

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subtitle [subtitle E (§§7201–7214) of title VII of Pub. L. 100–690, see Tables for classification]—

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

“(2) AIRCRAFT.—The term ‘aircraft’ has the meaning such term has under section 101 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 [see section 40102 of this title].”

INFORMATION COORDINATION

Pub. L. 100–690, title VII, §7210, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4432, provided that: “Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subtitle [Nov. 18, 1988] and annually thereafter during the 3-year period beginning on such 180th day, the Administrator shall prepare and transmit to Congress a report on the following:

“(1) The progress made in establishing a process for provision of informational assistance by such Administration to officials of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies.

“(2) The progress made in establishing a process for effectively pursuing suspensions and revocations of certificates of registration and airman certificates in accordance with the amendments made to the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 by the Aviation Drug-Trafficking Control Act [Pub. L. 98–499, see Tables for classification], section 3401 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 [Pub. L. 99–570], and this subtitle [subtitle E (§§7201–7214) of title VII of Pub. L. 100–690].

“(3) The efforts of such Administration in assessing and defining the appropriate relationship of such Administration’s informational assistance resources (including the El Paso Intelligence Center and the Law Enforcement Assistance Unit of the Aeronautical Center of such Administration).

“(4) The progress made in issuing guidelines on (A) the reporting of aviation sensitive drug-related information, and (B) the development, in coordination with the Drug Enforcement Administration of the

Department of Justice and the United States Customs Service, of training and educational policies to assist employees of such Administration to better understand (i) the trafficking of controlled substances (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act [21 U.S.C. 802]), and (ii) the role of such Administration with respect to such trafficking.

“(5) The progress made in improving and expanding such Administration’s role in the El Paso Intelligence Center.”

APPLICABILITY OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, §7211(b), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4433, provided that: “No information collection requests necessary to carry out the objectives of this subtitle [subtitle E (§§7201-7214) of title VI of Pub. L. 100-690, see Tables for classification] (including the amendments made by this subtitle) shall be subject to or affect, directly or indirectly, the annual information collection budget goals established for the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Transportation under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code.”

§ 44112. Limitation of liability

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) “lessor” means a person leasing for at least 30 days a civil aircraft, aircraft engine, or propeller.

(2) “owner” means a person that owns a civil aircraft, aircraft engine, or propeller.

(3) “secured party” means a person having a security interest in, or security title to, a civil aircraft, aircraft engine, or propeller under a conditional sales contract, equipment trust contract, chattel or corporate mortgage, or similar instrument.

(b) LIABILITY.—A lessor, owner, or secured party is liable for personal injury, death, or property loss or damage only when a civil aircraft, aircraft engine, or propeller is in the actual possession or operational control of the lessor, owner, or secured party, and the personal injury, death, or property loss or damage occurs because of—

(1) the aircraft, engine, or propeller; or

(2) the flight of, or an object falling from, the aircraft, engine, or propeller.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1167; Pub. L. 115-254, div. B, title V, §514, Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3358.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
44112	49 App.:1404.	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85-726, §504, 72 Stat. 774; restated July 8, 1959, Pub. L. 86-81, §2, 73 Stat. 180.

In subsection (a), clauses (1) and (3) are derived from 49 App.:1404 (2d-57th words). Clause (2) is added for clarity. In clause (1), the words “bona fide” are omitted as surplus. In clause (3), the word “nature” is omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), before clause (1), the words “personal injury, death” are substituted for “any injury to or death of persons”, and the words “on land or water” are substituted for “on the surface of the earth (whether on land or water)”, to eliminate unnecessary words. In clause (2), the words “ascent, descent, or” and “dropping or” are omitted as surplus.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 115-254, in introductory provisions, struck out “on land or water” before “only when” and inserted “operational” before “control”.

§ 44113. Definitions

In this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) CAPE TOWN TREATY.—The term “Cape Town Treaty” means the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, as modified by the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment, signed at Rome on May 9, 2003.

(2) UNITED STATES ENTRY POINT.—The term “United States Entry Point” means the Federal Aviation Administration Civil Aviation Registry.

(3) INTERNATIONAL REGISTRY.—The term “International Registry” means the registry established under the Cape Town Treaty.

(Added Pub. L. 108-297, §6(a), Aug. 9, 2004, 118 Stat. 1097.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Mar. 1, 2006, and not applicable to any registration or recordation that was made before such date under this chapter or any legal rights relating to such registration or recordation, see section 7 of Pub. L. 108-297, set out as an Effective Date of 2004 Amendment note under section 44101 of this title.

§ 44114. Privacy

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 552(b)(3) of title 5, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish and update as necessary a process by which, upon request of a private aircraft owner or operator, the Administrator withholds the registration number and other similar identifiable data or information, except for physical markings required by law, of the aircraft of the owner or operator from any broad dissemination or display (except in furnished data or information made available to or from a Government agency pursuant to a government contract, subcontract, or agreement, including for traffic management purposes) for the noncommercial flights of the owner or operator.

(b) WITHHOLDING PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION ON THE AIRCRAFT REGISTRY.—Not later than 2 years after the enactment of this Act and notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 552(b)(3) of title 5, the Administrator shall establish a procedure by which, upon request of a private aircraft owner or operator, the Administrator shall withhold from broad dissemination or display by the FAA (except in furnished data or information made available to or from a Government agency pursuant to a government contract, subcontract, or agreement, including for traffic management purposes) the personally identifiable information of such individual, including on a publicly available website of the FAA.