

- 388.3 Application and fee.
- 388.4 Criteria for grant of a waiver.
- 388.5 Criteria for revocation of a waiver.
- 388.6 Process.

**Authority:** 46 App. U.S.C. 1114(b); Pub. L. 105-383, 112 Stat. 3445 (46 U.S.C. 12106 note); 49 CFR 1.66.

#### § 388.1 Purpose.

This part prescribes regulations implementing the provisions of Title V of Public Law 105-383 (112 Stat. 3445), which grants the Secretary authority to review and approve applications for waiver of the coastwise trade laws to allow the carriage of no more than twelve passengers for hire on vessels, which are three years old or more, built or rebuilt outside the United States, and grants authority for revocation of those waivers.

#### § 388.2 Definitions.

*For the purposes of this Part:*

(a) *Administrator* means the Maritime Administrator

(b) *Coastwise Trade Laws* include:

(1) The Coastwise Endorsement Provision of the Vessel Documentation Laws, (46 U.S.C. 12106);

(2) The Passenger Services Act, section 8 of the Act of June 19, 1886 (46 App. U.S.C. 289); and

(3) The Jones Act, section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920 (46 App. U.S.C. 883).

(c) *Eligible vessel* means a vessel of five or more tons that is either a small passenger vessel or an uninspected passenger vessel that—

(1) Was not built in the United States and is at least 3 years of age; or

(2) If rebuilt, was rebuilt outside the United States at least 3 years before the certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement if granted, would become effective.

(d) *MARAD* means the Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

(e) *Secretary* means the Secretary of Transportation.

(f) The terms, *small passenger vessel*, *uninspected passenger vessel* and *passenger for hire* have the meaning given such terms by section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

(g) *Fraud* means the intentional misrepresentation of a material fact or facts.

#### § 388.3 Application and fee.

(a) An owner of a vessel may choose either of two methods to apply for an administrative waiver of the coastwise trade laws of the United States for an eligible vessel to carry no more than twelve passengers for hire.

(1) The application form contained on MARAD's website at [http://](http://www.marad.dot.gov)

[www.marad.dot.gov](http://www.marad.dot.gov) may be submitted electronically with credit card or Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) payment of the \$300 application fee.

(2) Alternatively, applicants may send written applications to Small Vessel Waiver Applications, Office of Ports and Domestic Shipping, MAR-830, Room 7201, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590. Written applications need not be in any particular format, but must be signed, be accompanied by a check for \$300 made out to the order of "Maritime Administration", and contain the following information:

(i) Name of vessel and owner for which waiver is requested and the vessel's official number.

(ii) Size, capacity and tonnage of vessel (state whether tonnage is measured pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 14502, or otherwise, and if otherwise, how measured).

(iii) Intended use for vessel, including geographic region of intended operation and trade.

(iv) Date and place of construction and (if applicable) rebuilding. (If applicant is unable to document the origin of the vessel, foreign construction will be assumed).

(v) Name, address, and telephone number of the vessel owner.

(vi) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on other commercial passenger vessel operators, including a statement describing the operations of existing operators.

(vii) A statement on the impact this waiver will have on U.S. shipyards.

(viii) A statement that the applicant represents that the foregoing information is true to the best of the applicant's knowledge.

(b) MARAD may ask additional questions of the applicant as part of the application review.

#### § 388.4 Criteria for grant of a waiver.

(a) *General criteria.* (1) A waiver of the foreign build and/or foreign rebuild prohibition in the coastwise trade laws will be granted for an eligible vessel only if we determine that the employment of the vessel in the coastwise trade will not unduly adversely affect—

(i) United States vessel builders; or

(ii) The coastwise trade business of any person who employs vessels built in the United States in that business.

(2) The determination of "unduly adverse affect" on a coastwise operator or a U.S. vessel builder may not be limited to operators or builders of vessels carrying 12 or fewer passengers.

(3) We may evaluate the expected impact of the proposed waiver on the basis of the information received from

all sources, including public comment, internal investigation and analysis, and any other sources of information deemed appropriate.

(b) *Impact on U.S. vessel builders.* We may use the following criteria to determine the effect on U.S. vessel builders: Whether a potentially impacted U.S. vessel builder has a history of construction of similar vessels, or can demonstrate the capability and capacity and the fact it has taken definite steps to offer to build a similar vessel, for use in the same geographic region of the United States, as the proposed vessel of the applicant.

(c) *Impact on coastwise trade business.* We may use the following criteria to determine the effect on existing operators of U.S.-built vessels in coastwise trade:

(1) Whether the proposed vessel of the applicant and a vessel of an existing operator (or the vessel of an operator that can demonstrate it has taken definite steps to begin operation) would provide similar commercial service and would operate in the same geographic area.

(2) The number of similar vessels operating or proposed to operate in the same market with the same or similar itinerary, relative to the size of the market. For example, a single vessel may have a small impact on a large market.

(d) *Advance notice and approval needed for changes.* When we approve a waiver application, we will notify the applicant that no substantial change in the employment of the vessel in the coastwise trade may be made without prior notice to MARAD. In general a substantial change in operating area will require a new waiver application.

#### § 388.5 Criteria for revocation of a waiver.

We may revoke a waiver previously granted under this Part if we determine, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that fraud was involved in any part of the waiver application.

#### § 388.6 Process.

(a) *Initial process.* (1) We will review each application for completeness as received. We will notify the applicant if additional information is necessary or if the application does not meet the initial eligibility requirements for waiver. All applications will be available for public inspection electronically in the Department of Transportation Docket at <http://dot.dms.gov>.

(2) Applications being processed on the merits will be noticed in the **Federal Register**. Interested parties will be given an opportunity to comment on whether introduction of any proposed vessel