

Title 46 US Code

§ 5102. Application

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this chapter applies to the following:

- (1) a vessel of the United States.
- (2) a vessel on the navigable waters of the United States.
- (3) a vessel—
 - (A) owned by a citizen of the United States or a corporation established by or under the laws of the United States or a State; and
 - (B) not registered in a foreign country.
- (4) a public vessel of the United States.
- (5) a vessel otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(b) This chapter does not apply to the following:

- (1) a vessel of war.
- (2) a recreational vessel when operated only for pleasure.
- (3) a fishing vessel.
- (4) a fish processing vessel of not more than 5,000 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 that—

(A)

(i) was constructed as a fish processing vessel before August 16, 1974; or

(ii) was converted for use as a fish processing vessel before January 1, 1983; and

(B) is not on a foreign voyage.

- (5) a fish tender vessel of not more than 500 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 that—

(A)

(i) was constructed, under construction, or under contract to be constructed as a fish tender vessel before January 1, 1980; or

(ii) was converted for use as a fish tender vessel before January 1, 1983; and

(B)

(i) is not on a foreign voyage; or

(ii) is not engaged in the Aleutian trade (except a vessel in that trade assigned a load line at any time before June 1, 1992).

- (6) a vessel of the United States on a domestic voyage that does not cross the Boundary Line, except a voyage on the Great Lakes.
- (7) a vessel of less than 24 meters (79 feet) overall in length.
- (8) a public vessel of the United States on a domestic voyage.
- (9) a vessel excluded from the application of this chapter by an international agreement to which the United States Government is a party.
- (10) an existing vessel of not more than 150 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 that is on a domestic voyage.
- (11) a small passenger vessel on a domestic voyage.

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- (12)** a vessel of the working fleet of the Panama Canal Commission not on a foreign voyage.
- (c)** On application by the owner and after a survey under section [5105](#) of this title, the Secretary may assign load lines for a vessel excluded from the application of this chapter under subsection (b) of this section. A vessel assigned load lines under this subsection is subject to this chapter until the surrender of its load line certificate and the removal of its load line marks.
- (d)** This chapter does not affect an international agreement to which the Government is a party that is not in conflict with the International Convention on Load Lines currently in force for the United States.