

Maritime Administration, DOT

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§ 326.1 Purpose.

This part states that the Maritime Administration (MARAD) shall be responsible for providing or obtaining marine protection and indemnity (P&I) insurance for any vessel that has been placed in the National Defense Reserve Fleet (NDRF), which includes the Ready Reserve Force component, which vessel is assigned under a General Agency Agreement. These various forms of Agreements are entered into by the United States, acting by and through the National Shipping Authority, MARAD, and a private company (Agent). An agreement also contains procedures for the Agent to report accidents and occurrences of a P&I nature to MARAD and to report and settle P&I claims.

§ 326.2 Insurer.

MARAD shall be responsible for providing or obtaining P&I insurance for all vessels assigned to Agents under an Agreement. At its election, MARAD may be a self-insurer of any one or more vessels covered by the Agreement, or may obtain P&I insurance coverage under one or more policies written by underwriters of marine insurance. MARAD shall determine the amount of coverage to be provided or obtained.

§ 326.3 Insured.

The insureds are: The United States of America, acting by and through the Director, National Shipping Authority, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, and its Agents (including Agents' employees). Sub-agents shall be insureds only as expressly provided in the Agreement. Independent contractors of the Agents are not insureds.

§ 326.4 Reports of accidents and occurrences.

The Agent shall report every accident or occurrence of a P&I nature promptly to both the Director, Office of Trade Analysis and Insurance, Maritime Administration, 500 Seventh Street, SW., Room 8121, Washington, DC 20590, Tel. (202) 366-1461, and the contracting officer named in the Agreement. If MARAD has obtained P&I insurance through a marine insur-

ance underwriter, the Agent also shall concurrently file a report of such accident or occurrence with the underwriter. MARAD shall disclose full details as the identity of such underwriter to the Agent.

§ 326.5 Report of claims.

The Agent also shall submit a quarterly report of all claims of a P&I insurance nature to the Director, Office of Trade Analysis and Insurance. The report shall contain all relevant information, e.g., the names of the vessels and of the claimant, the date of the injury or occurrence, the amount claimed, the basis for any payments already disbursed in behalf of the United States, estimated future costs and an evaluation of the claim of the merits.

§ 326.6 Settlement of claims.

(a) After ascertaining from MARAD the availability of funds, the Agent is authorized to settle individual claims of a P&I insurance nature that do not exceed \$5,000. For a settlement in excess of \$5,000, the Agent shall obtain MARAD's prior approval through the Director, Office of Trade Analysis and Insurance. If MARAD has placed the P&I insurance with an insurance underwriter, the Agent also shall obtain the prior approval of the underwriter to settle claims.

(b) The amount of individual claims that do not exceed the Agent's limit for settlement shall be chargeable by the Agent to the vessel expense and shall be accounted for in accordance with current accounting instructions of MARAD.

(c) When settling any such claim, the Agent shall advise the claimant that such settlement shall be accounted for in accordance with current accounting instructions, and shall also advise the claimant that such settlement is not to be construed as an admission of liability by or on behalf of the United States, the Agent or any other person.

(d) The Agent shall apply sound judgment and follow standard practices of vessel operators in the settlement or other disposition of such P&I insurance claims, and shall settle such claims only when the settlement is adequately

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supported by all the facts and circumstances and is in the best interest of the United States.

§ 326.7 Litigation.

(a) If a court suit of a P&I nature is filed which arises out of the activities of the Agent under its Agreement, wherein the Agent is named as the party defendant or one of the parties' defendant irrespective of whether the risk is covered by P&I insurance, the Agent shall immediately forward copies of the pleading and all other related legal documents, by first class mail, to the Chief Counsel, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590, and to the Attorney General, Attn: Civil Division, Torts Branch, Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530. No agent or authorized subagent shall incur any legal expenses in connection with any claim of a P&I nature, unless approved in advance by MARAD, and by the underwriter, where applicable. However, the Agent may incur legal expenses if the mission of the vessel will be frustrated or impeded and/or time will not permit such prior approval.

(b) In the event of any attachment or seizure of a vessel, whether or not the risk is of a P&I nature, the Agent shall immediately notify the Chief Counsel, Maritime Administration, Washington, DC 20590, Tel. (202) 366-05711, by telegram, radio, or cable.

PART 327—SEAMEN'S CLAIMS; ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AND LITIGATION

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AUTHORITY: 46 U.S.C. Chapters 301-309.

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Subpart A—Clarification Act Claims: Seamen's Claims; Administrative Action and Litigation.

§ 327.1 Purpose.

This part prescribes rules and regulations pertaining to the filing of claims designated in §327.3 and the administrative allowance, or disallowance (actual and presumed), of such claims, in whole or in part, filed by officers and