

§ 41309. Enforcement of reparation orders

(a) CIVIL ACTION.—If a person does not comply with an order of the Federal Maritime Commission for the payment of a refund of money or reparation, the person to which the refund or reparation was awarded may seek enforcement of the order in a district court of the United States having jurisdiction over the parties.

(b) PARTIES AND SERVICE OF PROCESS.—All parties in whose favor the Commission has ordered a refund of money or any other award of reparation by a single order may be joined as plaintiffs, and all other parties in the order (except for the Commission or any component of the Commission) may be joined as defendants, in a single action in a judicial district in which any one plaintiff could maintain an action against any one defendant. Service of process against a defendant not found in that district may be made in a district in which any office of that defendant is located or in which any port of call on a regular route operated by that defendant is located. Judgment may be entered for any plaintiff against the defendant liable to that plaintiff.

(c) NATURE OF REVIEW.—In an action under this section, the findings and order of the Commission are prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the findings and order.

(d) COSTS AND ATTORNEY FEES.—The plaintiff is not liable for costs of the action or for costs of any subsequent stage of the proceedings unless they accrue on the plaintiff's appeal. A prevailing plaintiff shall be allowed reasonable attorney fees to be assessed and collected as part of the costs of the action.

(e) TIME LIMIT ON BRINGING ACTIONS.—An action under this section to enforce an order of the Commission must be brought within 3 years after the date the order was violated.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §7, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1548; Pub. L. 117-146, §13, June 16, 2022, 136 Stat. 1279.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
41309(a)	46 App.:1713(d)(1).	Pub. L. 98-237, §14(d), (e), Mar. 20, 1984, 98 Stat. 83, 84.
41309(b)	46 App.:1713(d)(3).	
41309(c)	46 App.:1713(d)(2) (1st sentence 1st-23d words).	
41309(d)	46 App.:1713(d)(2) (1st sentence 24th-last words, last sentence).	
41309(e)	46 App.:1713(e).	

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2022—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 117-146, §13(1), substituted “a refund of money or reparation, the person to which the refund or reparation was awarded” for “reparation, the person to whom the award was made”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 117-146, §13(2), substituted “ordered a refund of money or any other award of reparation” for “made an award of reparation” and inserted “(except for the Commission or any component of the Commission)” after “parties in the order”.

§ 41310. Charge complaints

(a) IN GENERAL.—A person may submit to the Federal Maritime Commission, and the Commission shall accept, information concerning complaints about charges assessed by a common carrier. The information submitted to the Commission shall include the bill of lading numbers and invoices, and may include any other relevant information.

(b) INVESTIGATION.—Upon receipt of a submission under subsection (a), with respect to a charge assessed by a common carrier, the Commission shall promptly investigate the charge with regard to compliance with section 41104(a) and section 41102. The common carrier shall—

(1) be provided an opportunity to submit additional information related to the charge in question; and

(2) bear the burden of establishing the reasonableness of any demurrage or detention charges pursuant to section 545.5 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(c) REFUND.—Upon receipt of submissions under subsection (a), if the Commission determines that a charge does not comply with section 41104(a) or 41102, the Commission shall promptly order the refund of charges paid.

(d) PENALTIES.—In the event of a finding that a charge does not comply with section 41104(a) or 41102 after submission under subsection (a), a civil penalty under section 41107 shall be applied to the common carrier making such charge.

(e) CONSIDERATIONS.—If the common carrier assessing the charge is acting in the capacity of a non-vessel-operating common carrier, the Commission shall, while conducting an investigation under subsection (b), consider—

(1) whether the non-vessel-operating common carrier is responsible for the noncompliant assessment of the charge, in whole or in part; and

(2) whether another party is ultimately responsible in whole or in part and potentially subject to action under subsections (c) and (d).

(Added Pub. L. 117-146, §10(a), June 16, 2022, 136 Stat. 1278.)

PART B—ACTIONS TO ADDRESS FOREIGN PRACTICES

CHAPTER 421—REGULATIONS AFFECTING SHIPPING IN FOREIGN TRADE

Sec. 42101.	Regulations of the Commission.
42102.	Regulations of other agencies.
42103.	No preference to Government-owned vessels.
42104.	Information, witnesses, and evidence.
42105.	Disclosure to public.
42106.	Other actions to remedy unfavorable conditions.
42107.	Refusal of clearance and entry.
42108.	Penalty for operating under suspended tariff or service contract.
42109.	Consultation with other agencies.

§ 42101. Regulations of the Commission

(a) UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS.—To further the objectives and policy set forth in section 50101 of this title, the Federal Maritime Commission shall prescribe regulations affecting shipping in foreign trade, not in conflict with law, to adjust or meet general or special conditions unfavorable to shipping in foreign trade, whether in a