

Federal Departments With Maritime Responsibilities Related to Commercial Shipping and Shipbuilding Industries

Transportation

Department of Transportation

- Primary administration spokesman on maritime policy issues. Has overall lead in all maritime issues, subject to coordination with other agencies having specific areas of responsibility.

Maritime Administration

- Administers subsidy programs (ODS, CDS).
- Provides financing guarantees (title XI) for the construction, reconstruction, and reconditioning of ships.
- Enters into capital construction fund agreements which grant tax deferrals on moneys to be used for the acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of ships.
- Conducts research and development activities.
- Under emergency conditions, charters government-owned ships to U.S. operators, requisitions or procures ships owned by U.S. citizens, and allocates them to meet defense needs. In conjunction with the Department of the U.S. Navy, develops definition of shipyard mobilization base and sealift requirements.
- Maintains a National Defense Reserve Fleet of government-owned ships.
- Operates the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and administers Federal assistance to State maritime academies.
- Oversees enforcement of cargo-preference laws.
- Develops maritime policy analysis under guidance of the Office of the Secretary of Transportation.

U.S. Coast Guard

- Administers and enforces safety standards for the design, construction, equipment, and maintenance of commercial vessels of the United States.
- Enforces vessel personnel manning and crew qualifications standards.
- Administers the vessel documentation laws.

Commerce

International Trade Administration

- Advises on the formulation and implementation of international economic policies of a bilateral, multilateral, or regional nature.
- Develops policies and implements programs dealing with import and export administration issues.
- Administers U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty laws.
- Advises on international trade and investment policies pertaining to domestic business sectors and carries out programs to promote world trade and to strengthen the position of the United States.
- Manages ITA's trade-related information and research-gathering and dissemination functions.

Navy

- Military Sealift Command owns or charters a fleet of cargo vessels for logistical military support.
- Office of Assistant Secretary (Shipbuilding and Logistics). Responsible for maritime policy analysis within DOD. In conjunction with MarAd, develops definitions of shipyard mobilization base and sealift requirements.
- Deputy Commander for Acquisition and Logistics. Develops and approves national defense features for merchant vessels.

Justice

Antitrust Division

- Reviews and represents the U.S. Government in cases involving agreements and activities of carriers and conferences which may be anticompetitive.

State

- Office of Maritime and Land Transport Affairs—has lead in coordinating U.S. Government responses to international shipping issues as they affect international conventions and trade practices.

Independent Federal Agencies and Groups With Maritime Responsibilities

Federal Maritime Commission

- Regulates the waterborne foreign and domestic offshore commerce of the United States and protects against unauthorized, collusive activity.
- Approves or disapproves agreements filed under section 15 of the Shipping Act, 1916; reviews activities under approved agreements.
- Accepts or rejects tariff filings.
- In domestic offshore trade, can set maximum or minimum rates or suspend rates.

interstate Commerce Commission

- Regulates inland waterway, Great Lakes, and coastal shipping, primarily in maximum rate regulation, financial responsibility of passenger carriers, and in collective agreements.

Interagency Group on International Shipping Policy

- Formulates and coordinates administration policies on international shipping issues, such as bilateral and multilateral cargo agreements, and positions on legislative proposals; includes representatives from FMC, OMB, USTR, and the Departments of Transportation, State, Justice, Commerce, and Defense.

U.S. Trade Representative

- A cabinet-level official in the White House with responsibilities for interagency coordination and representing the United States in international trade negotiations.