

SUBCHAPTER A—GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

PART 500 [RESERVED]

PART 501—THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION—GENERAL

Subpart A—Organization and Functions

Sec.

501.1 Purpose.

501.2 General.

501.3 Organizational components of the Federal Maritime Commission.

501.4 Lines of responsibility.

501.5 Functions of the organizational components of the Federal Maritime Commission.

Subpart B—Official Seal

501.11 Official seal.

Subpart C—Delegation and Redelegation of Authorities

501.21 Delegation of authorities.

501.22 [Reserved]

501.23 Delegation to the General Counsel.

501.24 Delegation to the Secretary.

501.25 Delegation to the Director, Office of Operations.

501.26 Delegation to and redelegation by the Director, Bureau of Certification and Licensing.

501.27 Delegation to and redelegation by the Director, Bureau of Trade Analysis.

501.28 Delegation to the Director, Bureau of Enforcement.

501.29 Delegation to and redelegation by the Director, Office of Administration.

Subpart D—Public Requests for Information

501.41 Public requests for information and decisions.

APPENDIX A TO PART 501—ORGANIZATION CHART

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Subpart A—Organization and Functions

§ 501.1 Purpose.

This part describes the organization, functions and Official Seal of, and the delegation of authority within, the Federal Maritime Commission (“Commission”).

§ 501.2 General.

(a) *Statutory functions.* The Commission regulates common carriers by water and other persons involved in the oceanborne foreign commerce of the United States under provisions of the Shipping Act of 1984, as amended by the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 (46 U.S.C. app. sections 1701-1720); section 19 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920 (46 U.S.C. app. section 876); the Foreign Shipping Practices Act of 1988 (46 U.S.C. app. section 1710a); sections 2 and 3, Public Law 89-777, Financial Responsibility for Death or Injury to Passengers and for Non-Performance of Voyages (46 U.S.C. app. sections 817d and 817e); and other applicable statutes.

(b) *Establishment and composition of the Commission.* The Commission was established as an independent agency by Reorganization Plan No. 7 of 1961, effective August 12, 1961, and is composed of five Commissioners (“Commissioners” or “members”), appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Not more than three Commissioners may be appointed from the same political party. The President designates one of the Commissioners to serve as the Chairman of the Commission (“Chairman”).

(c) *Terms and vacancies.* The term of each member of the Commission is five years and begins when the term of the predecessor of that member ends (*i.e.*, on June 30 of each successive year), except that, when the term of office of a member ends, the member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified. A vacancy in the office of any Commissioner shall be