



U.S. Department
of Transportation



Reflagging Ships to U.S. Flag and the Vessel Transfer Program

Maritime Administration Fact Sheet

Strategic Objective: National Security: Assure that sufficient sealift capability and intermodal transportation infrastructure exists to support vital homeland and national security interests.

The Maritime Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard's Expedited MSP Reflagging Procedure

The Maritime Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard have established expedited MSP vessel reflagging procedures to encourage reflagging of modern, efficient vessels into the U.S. fleet. In FY 2002, MARAD and the U.S. Coast Guard agreed to expand the process to include tankers that the U.S. Transportation Command determines to be militarily useful. If you believe that you have a vessel that meets the MSP eligibility requirements and are interested in reflagging to U.S. registry, please contact the Office of Sealift Support.

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Vessel Transfer Program

Under 46 U.S.C. § 56101 and 56103, U.S. documented vessels 1,000 gross tons and over requires approval of the Maritime Administration to be transferred to foreign ownership, flag and/or registry. Vessels 3,000 gross tons and over are subject to additional terms and conditions of 46 CFR Part 221. The Maritime Administration requires a formal application with supporting documentation including an original Coast Guard issued certificate of ownership and application fee for processing.

The Maritime Administration's Approved Foreign Transfers—FY 2015

1,000 gross tons and over:

34 vessels transferred to foreign ownership and/or foreign registry

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