

1994—Pub. L. 103-272 renumbered section 3103 of this title as this section and amended it generally, restating it without substantive change.

Sec. 31707. Limitations on statutory construction. [31708. Repealed.]

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

Editorial Notes

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

AMENDMENTS

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-88 effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1301 of this title.

1998—Pub. L. 105-178, title IV, §4013, June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 409, struck out items 31702 “Working group”, 31703 “Grants”, and 31708 “Authorization of appropriations”.

§ 31504. Identification of motor vehicles

§ 31701. Definitions

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Transportation may—

In this chapter—

(1) issue and require the display of an identification plate on a motor vehicle used in transportation provided by a motor private carrier and a motor carrier of migrant workers subject to section 31502(c) of this title, except a motor contract carrier; and

(1) “commercial motor vehicle”, with respect to—

(2) require each of those motor private carriers and motor carriers of migrant workers to pay the reasonable cost of the plate.

(A) the International Registration Plan, has the same meaning given the term “apportionable vehicle” under the Plan; and

(B) the International Fuel Tax Agreement, has the same meaning given the term “qualified motor vehicle” under the Agreement.

(b) LIMITATION.—A motor private carrier or a motor carrier of migrant workers may use an identification plate only as authorized by the Secretary.

(2) “fuel use tax” means a tax imposed on or measured by the consumption of fuel in a motor vehicle.

(Pub. L. 97-449, Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2439, §3104; renumbered §31504 and amended Pub. L. 103-272, §1(c), (e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 745, 1030.)

(3) “International Fuel Tax Agreement” means the interstate agreement on collecting and distributing fuel use taxes paid by motor carriers, developed under the auspices of the National Governors’ Association.

(4) “International Registration Plan” means the interstate agreement on apportioning vehicle registration fees paid by motor carriers, developed by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Rows include 3104(a) and 3104(b) with their respective sources.

(5) “Regional Fuel Tax Agreement” means the interstate agreement on collecting and distributing fuel use taxes paid by motor carriers in the States of Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

(6) “State” means the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1031.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row includes 31701 with source 49:11506 (note).

The section is included to reflect the text of former 49:324 (related to motor private carriers and motor carriers of migrant workers) which is incorporated in the revised title by cross-reference.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

Editorial Notes

OPERATION OF TRAILERS

AMENDMENTS

Pub. L. 105-277, div. C, title I, §109, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-586, provided that:

1994—Pub. L. 103-272 renumbered section 3104 of this title as this section and amended it generally, restating it without substantive change.

“(a) REGISTRATION OF TRAILERS.—A State that requires annual registration of container chassis and the apportionment of fees for such registrations in accordance with the International Registration Plan (as defined under section 31701 of title 49, United States Code) shall not limit the operation, or require the registration, in the State of a container chassis (or impose fines or penalties on the operation of a container chassis for being operated in the State without a registration issued by the State) if such chassis—

CHAPTER 317—PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION PLAN AND INTERNATIONAL FUEL TAX AGREEMENT

Sec. 31701. Definitions. [31702, 31703. Repealed.] 31704. Vehicle registration. 31705. Fuel use tax. 31706. Enforcement.

“(1) is registered under the laws of another State; and
“(2) is operating under a trip permit issued by the State.
“(b) LIMITATION ON REGISTRATION OF TRAILERS.—A State described in subsection (a) may not deny the use

of trip permits for the operation in the State of a container chassis that is registered under the laws of another State.

“(c) SAFETY REGULATION.—This section shall apply to registration requirements only and shall not affect the ability of the State to regulate for safety.

“(d) PENALTIES.—No State described in subsection (a), political subdivision of such a State, or person may impose or collect any fee, penalty, fine, or other form of damages which is based in whole or in part upon the nonpayment of a State registration fee (including related weight and licensing fees assessed as part of registration) attributable to a container chassis operated in the State (and registered in another State) before the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998], unless it is shown by the State, political subdivision, or person that such container chassis was not operated in the State under a trip permit issued by the State.

“(e) CONTAINER CHASSIS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘container chassis’ means a trailer, semi-trailer, or auxiliary axle used exclusively for the transportation of ocean shipping containers.”

§§ 31702, 31703. Repealed. Pub. L. 105-178, title IV, § 4013, June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 409

Section 31702, Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1031, related to establishment and purposes of working group of State and local government officials to propose procedures to resolve disputes among States participating in the International Registration Plan and in the International Fuel Tax Agreement.

Section 31703, Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1032, related to grants to States and appropriate persons to facilitate participation in the International Registration Plan and in the International Fuel Tax Agreement.

§ 31704. Vehicle registration

After September 30, 1996, a State that is not participating in the International Registration Plan may not establish, maintain, or enforce a commercial motor vehicle registration law, regulation, or agreement that limits the operation in that State of a commercial motor vehicle that is not registered under the laws of the State, if the vehicle is registered under the laws of a State participating in the Plan.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1032.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row 1: 31704, 49:11506 (note), Dec. 18, 1991, Pub. L. 102-240, § 4008(f), 105 Stat. 2154.

The words ‘a State that is not participating in the International Registration Plan may not’ are substituted for ‘no State (other than a State which is participating in the International Registration Plan) shall’ for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 31705. Fuel use tax

(a) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—After September 30, 1996, a State may establish, maintain, or enforce a law or regulation that has a fuel use tax reporting requirement (including any tax reporting form) only if the requirement conforms with the International Fuel Tax Agreement.

(b) PAYMENT.—After September 30, 1996, a State may establish, maintain, or enforce a law or regulation that provides for the payment of a fuel use tax only if the law or regulation con-

forms with the International Fuel Tax Agreement as it applies to collection of a fuel use tax by a single base State and proportional sharing of fuel use taxes charged among the States where a commercial motor vehicle is operated.

(c) LIMITATION.—If the International Fuel Tax Agreement is amended, a State not participating in the Agreement when the amendment is made is not subject to the conformity requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section in regard to the amendment until after a reasonable time, but not earlier than the expiration of—

(1) the 365-day period beginning on the first day that States participating in the Agreement are required to comply with the amendment; or

(2) the 365-day period beginning on the day the relevant office of the State receives written notice of the amendment from the Secretary of Transportation.

(d) NONAPPLICATION.—This section does not apply to a State that was participating in the Regional Fuel Tax Agreement on January 1, 1991, and that continues to participate in that Agreement after that date.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1032.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row 1: 31705, 49:11506 (note), Dec. 18, 1991, Pub. L. 102-240, § 4008(g), 105 Stat. 2154.

In subsection (b), the words ‘as it applies to’ are substituted for ‘with respect to’ for clarity.

In subsection (c), before clause (1), the words ‘a State not participating in the Agreement when the amendment is made is not subject to the conformity requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section in regard to the amendment’ are substituted for ‘conformity by a State that is not participating in such Agreement when such amendment is made may not be required with respect to such amendment’ for clarity.

§ 31706. Enforcement

(a) CIVIL ACTIONS.—On request of the Secretary of Transportation, the Attorney General may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce compliance with sections 31704 and 31705 of this title.

(b) VENUE.—An action under this section may be brought only in the State in which an order is required to enforce compliance.

(c) RELIEF.—Subject to section 1341 of title 28, the court, on a proper showing—

(1) shall issue a temporary restraining order or a preliminary or permanent injunction; and

(2) may require by the injunction that the State or any person comply with sections 31704 and 31705 of this title.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1033.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row 1: 31706, 49:11506 (note), Dec. 18, 1991, Pub. L. 102-240, § 4008(h), 105 Stat. 2155.

In subsection (a), the words "bring a civil action . . . to enforce compliance" are substituted for "commence . . . a civil action for such injunctive relief as may be appropriate to ensure compliance" for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (b), the words "an order is required to enforce compliance" are substituted for "relief is required to ensure such compliance" for consistency in the revised title.

§ 31707. Limitations on statutory construction

Sections 31704 and 31705 of this title do not limit the amount of money a State may charge for registration of a commercial motor vehicle or the amount of any fuel use tax a State may impose.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1033.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row 1: 31707, 49:11506 (note), Dec. 18, 1991, Pub. L. 102-240, § 4008(i), 105 Stat. 2155.

§ 31708. Repealed. Pub. L. 105-178, title IV, § 4013, June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 409]

Section, Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1033, related to authorization of appropriations for working group under section 31702 of this title and for grants under section 31703 of this title.

PART C—INFORMATION, STANDARDS, AND REQUIREMENTS

CHAPTER 321—GENERAL

- Sec. 32101. Definitions. 32102. Authorization of appropriations.

§ 32101. Definitions

In this part (except chapter 329 and except as provided in section 33101)—

(1) "bumper standard" means a minimum performance standard that substantially reduces—

- (A) the damage to the front or rear end of a passenger motor vehicle from a low-speed collision (including a collision with a fixed barrier) or from towing the vehicle; or (B) the cost of repairing the damage.

(2) "insurer" means a person in the business of issuing, or reinsuring any part of, a passenger motor vehicle insurance policy.

(3) "interstate commerce" means commerce between a place in a State and—

- (A) a place in another State; or (B) another place in the same State through another State.

(4) "make", when describing a passenger motor vehicle, means the trade name of the manufacturer of the vehicle.

(5) "manufacturer" means a person—

- (A) manufacturing or assembling passenger motor vehicles or passenger motor vehicle equipment; or (B) importing motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment for resale.

(6) "model", when describing a passenger motor vehicle, means a category of passenger

motor vehicles based on the size, style, and type of a make of vehicle.

(7) "motor vehicle" means a vehicle driven or drawn by mechanical power and manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways, but does not include a vehicle operated only on a rail line.

(8) "motor vehicle accident" means an accident resulting from the maintenance or operation of a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment.

(9) "multipurpose passenger vehicle" means a passenger motor vehicle constructed on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional off-road operation.

(10) "passenger motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle with motive power designed to carry not more than 12 individuals, but does not include—

- (A) a motorcycle; or (B) a truck not designed primarily to carry its operator or passengers.

(11) "passenger motor vehicle equipment" means—

- (A) a system, part, or component of a passenger motor vehicle as originally made; (B) a similar part or component made or sold for replacement or improvement of a system, part, or component, or as an accessory or addition to a passenger motor vehicle; or (C) a device made or sold for use in towing a passenger motor vehicle.

(12) "State" means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands.

(13) "United States district court" means a district court of the United States, a United States court for Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa, and the district court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1034; Pub. L. 103-429, §6(27), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4380.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES PUB. L. 103-272

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Rows include 32101(1) through 32101(13) with their respective legislative sources.

In clause (1), the text of 15:1901(11) is omitted as surplus because the complete title of the Secretary of Transportation is used the first time the term appears