

(g) The decision of the Commissioner of Customs is the final administrative decision on any question of interpretation relating to the collection of tonnage tax or to the refund of such tax when collected erroneously or illegally, and any question of doubt shall be referred to him for instructions.

(h) Any person adversely affected by a decision of the Commissioner of Customs relating to the collection of tonnage tax, or to the refund of such tax when collected erroneously or illegally, may appeal the decision in the Court of International Trade provided that the appeal action is commenced in accordance with the rules of the Court within 2 years after the cause of action first accrues.

[28 FR 14596, Dec. 31, 1963, as amended by T.D. 71-169, 36 FR 12603, July 2, 1971; T.D. 75-110, 40 FR 21027, May 15, 1975; T.D. 76-280, 41 FR 42647, Sept. 28, 1976; T.D. 79-276, 44 FR 61956, Oct. 29, 1979; T.D. 82-145, 47 FR 35475, Aug. 16, 1982; T.D. 85-91, 50 FR 21429, May 24, 1985; T.D. 85-90, 50 FR 21430, May 24, 1985; T.D. 93-12, 58 FR 13196, Mar. 10, 1993; T.D. 95-76, 60 FR 48028, Sept. 18, 1995; T.D. 97-82, 62 FR 51769, Oct. 3, 1997; T.D. 00-22, 65 FR 16515, Mar. 29, 2000]

#### § 4.21 Exemptions from tonnage taxes.

(a) Tonnage taxes and light money shall be suspended in whole or in part whenever the President by proclamation shall so direct.

(b) The following vessels, or vessels arriving in the circumstances as defined below, shall be exempt from tonnage tax and light money:

(1) It comes into port for bunkers (including water), sea stores, or ship's stores; transacts no other business in the port; and departs within 24 hours after its arrival.

(2) It arrives in distress, even though required to enter.

(3) It is brought into port by orders of United States naval authorities and transacts no business while in port other than the taking on of bunkers, sea stores, or ship's stores.

(4) It is a vessel of war or other vessel which is owned by, or under the complete control and management of the United States or the government of a foreign country, and which is not carrying passengers or merchandise in trade or, if in ballast, which is not arriving from a foreign port during the

usual course of its employment as a vessel engaged in trade.

(5) It is a yacht or other pleasure vessel not carrying passengers or merchandise in trade.

(6) It is engaged exclusively in scientific activities.

(7) It is engaged exclusively in laying or repairing cables.

(8) It is engaged in whaling or other fisheries, even though it may have entered a foreign port for fuel or supplies, if it did not carry passengers or merchandise in trade.

(9) It is a passenger vessel making three trips or more a week between a port of the United States and a foreign port.

(10) It is used exclusively as a ferry boat, including a car ferry.

(11) It is a tug with a Great Lakes license endorsement on its vessel document, when towing vessels which are required to make entry.

(12) It is a documented vessel with a Great Lakes license endorsement which has touched at an intermediate foreign port or ports during a coastwise voyage.

(13) It enters otherwise than by sea from a foreign port at which tonnage or lighthouse duties or equivalent taxes are not imposed on vessels of the United States (applicable only where the vessel arrives from a port in the province of Ontario, Canada).

(14) It is a coastwise-qualified vessel solely engaged in the coastwise trade (although arriving from a foreign port or place, it is engaged in the transportation of merchandise or passengers, or the towing of a vessel other than a vessel in distress, between points in the U.S. via a foreign point) (see §§ 4.80, 4.80a, 4.80b, and 4.92).

(15) It is a vessel entering directly from the Virgin Islands (U.S.), American Samoa, the islands of Guam, Wake, Midway, Canton, or Kingman Reef, or Guantanamo Bay Naval Station.

(16) It is a vessel making regular daily trips between any port of the United States and any port in Canada wholly upon interior waters not navigable to the ocean, except that such a vessel shall pay tonnage taxes upon her first arrival in each calendar year.

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(17) It is a vessel arriving at a port in the United States which, while proceeding between ports in the United States, touched at a foreign port under circumstances which would have exempted it from making entry under section 441(4), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1441(4)), had it touched at a United States port.

[28 FR 14596, Dec. 31, 1963, as amended by T.D. 72-264, 37 FR 20317, Sept. 29, 1972; T.D. 75-110, 40 FR 21027, May 15, 1975; T.D. 75-206, 40 FR 34586, Aug. 18, 1975; T.D. 79-276, 44 FR 61956, Oct. 29, 1979; T.D. 83-214, 48 FR 46512, Oct. 13, 1983; T.D. 93-12, 58 FR 13197, Mar. 10, 1993]

#### § 4.22 Exemptions from special tonnage taxes.

Vessels of the following nations are exempted by treaties, Presidential proclamations, or orders of the Secretary of the Treasury from the payment of any higher tonnage duties than are applicable to vessels of the United States and are exempted from the payment of light money:

Algeria.  
Antigua and Barbuda.  
Arab Republic of Egypt.  
Argentina.  
Australia.  
Austria.  
Bahamas, The.  
Bahrain.  
Bangladesh.  
Barbados.  
Belgium.  
Belize.  
Bermuda.  
Bolivia.  
Brazil.  
Bulgaria.  
Burma.  
Canada.  
Chile.  
Colombia.  
Costa Rica.  
Cuba.  
Cyprus.  
Czechoslovakia.  
Denmark (including the Faeroe Islands).  
Dominica.  
Dominican Republic.  
Ecuador.  
El Salvador.  
Estonia.  
Ethiopia.  
Fiji.  
Finland.  
France.  
Gambia, The.  
German Democratic Republic.

German Federal Republic.  
Ghana.  
Great Britain (including the Cayman Islands).  
Greece.  
Greenland.  
Guatemala.  
Guinea, Republic of.  
Guyana.  
Haiti.  
Honduras.  
Hong Kong.  
Hungarian People's Republic  
Iceland.  
India.  
Indonesia.  
Iran.  
Iraq.  
Ireland (Eire).  
Israel.  
Italy.  
Ivory Coast, Republic of.  
Jamaica.  
Japan.  
Kenya.  
Korea.  
Kuwait.  
Latvia.  
Lebanon.  
Liberia.  
Libya.  
Luxembourg.  
Malaysia.  
Malta.  
Marshall Islands, Republic of.  
Mauritius.  
Mexico.  
Monaco.  
Morocco.  
Nauru, Republic of.  
Netherlands.  
Netherlands Antilles.  
New Zealand.  
Nicaragua.  
Nigeria.  
Norway.  
Oman.  
Pakistan.  
Panama.  
Papua New Guinea.  
Paraguay.  
People's Republic of China.  
Peru.  
Philippines.  
Poland.  
Portugal.  
Qatar.  
Rumania.  
Saudi Arabia.  
Senegal.  
Singapore, Republic.  
Somali, Republic.  
Spain.  
Sri Lanka.  
St. Vincent and The Grenadines.  
Surinam, Republic of.  
Sweden.