

National Transportation Safety Board

§ 850.10

part of the docket and, where appropriate, parties will be given an opportunity to examine such evidence and to comment thereon.

PART 850—COAST GUARD—NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD MARINE CASUALTY INVESTIGATIONS

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AUTHORITY: Sec. 304(a)(1)(E), Independent Safety Board Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-633, 88 Stat. 2168 (49 U.S.C. 1903).

SOURCE: 42 FR 61204, Dec. 1, 1977, unless otherwise noted.

§ 850.1 Purpose.

This part prescribes the joint regulations of the National Transportation Safety Board and the Coast Guard for the investigation of marine casualties.

[47 FR 46089, Oct. 15, 1982]

§ 850.3 Relationship to Coast Guard marine investigation regulations and procedures.

(a) The Coast Guard's responsibility to investigate marine casualties is not eliminated nor diminished by the regulations in this part.

(b) In those instances where the Board conducts an investigation in which the Coast Guard also has responsibility under R.S. 4450 (46 U.S.C. 239), the proceedings are conducted independently, but so as to avoid duplication as much as possible.

§ 850.5 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Act* means Title III of Pub. L. 93-633, the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 (49 U.S.C. 1901, *et seq.*).

(b) *Board* means the National Transportation Safety Board.

(c) *Chairman* means the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

(d) *Commandant* means the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

(e) *Major marine casualty* means a casualty involving a vessel, other than a public vessel, that results in—

(1) The loss of six or more lives;

(2) The loss of a mechanically propelled vessel of 100 or more gross tons;

(3) Property damage initially estimated as \$500,000 or more; or

(4) Serious threat, as determined by the Commandant and concurred in by the Chairman, to life, property, or the environment by hazardous materials.

(f) *Public vessel* means a vessel owned by the United States, except a vessel to which the Act of October 25, 1919, c. 82 (41 Stat. 305, 46 U.S.C. 363) applies.

(g) *Vessel of the United States* means a vessel—

(1) Documented, or required to be documented, under the laws of the United States;

(2) Owned in the United States; or

(3) Owned by a citizen or resident of the United States and not registered under a foreign flag.

§ 850.10 Preliminary investigation by the Coast Guard.

(a) The Coast Guard conducts the preliminary investigation of marine casualties.

(b) The Commandant determines from the preliminary investigation whether:

(1) The casualty is a major marine casualty; or

(2) The casualty involves a public and a nonpublic vessel and at least one fatality or \$75,000 in property damage; or

(3) The casualty involves a Coast Guard and a nonpublic vessel and at least one fatality or \$75,000 in property damage; or

(4) The casualty is a major marine casualty which involves significant safety issues relating to Coast Guard safety functions, e.g., search and rescue, aids to navigation, vessel traffic systems, commercial vessel safety, etc.