



[WWW.FMC.GOV](http://WWW.FMC.GOV)



**Federal Maritime Commission**



*Whenever ships carry world trade to and from American ports, they are working under regulations developed for the liner shipping industry by the statutory authority of the Federal Maritime Commission*



## Federal Maritime Commission

The **Federal Maritime Commission (FMC)** was established in 1961 as an independent agency responsible for the regulation of ocean shipping in the foreign trades of the United States. The FMC is composed of five Commissioners appointed for five-year terms by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The President designates one of the Commissioners to serve as Chairman, who is the chief executive and administrative officer of the agency. The FMC:

- ✦ Protects shippers, carriers and others engaged in the foreign commerce of the U.S. from restrictive rules and regulations of foreign governments and from the practices of foreign-flag carriers that have an adverse effect on shipping in U.S. trades
- ✦ Provides facilitation, mediation, and arbitration to parties engaged in commercial or regulatory disputes involving the international transportation of goods by ocean vessel, and assists cruise line passengers that embark in the U.S. and experience problems
- ✦ Investigates upon its own motion or upon filing of a complaint, discriminatory or unfair charges, classifications, and practices of ocean common carriers, terminal operators, and freight forwarders operating in the foreign commerce of the U.S.
- ✦ Receives agreements among ocean common carriers or marine terminal operators and monitors them to assure that they are not substantially anticompetitive or otherwise in violation of the Shipping Act of 1984
- ✦ Reviews tariff publications under the access and accuracy standards of the Shipping Act of 1984, assures proper application of rates, charges and rules as published in tariffs and service contracts of ocean common carriers
- ✦ Regulates rates, charges, classifications, rules and regulations contained in tariffs of carriers controlled by foreign governments and operating in U.S. trades to ensure that such matters are just and reasonable
- ✦ Licenses U.S.-based international ocean transportation intermediaries (OTIs) and requires bonds of both U.S. and "foreign-based" OTIs and proper tariff publication by U.S. and "foreign-based" ocean common carriers
- ✦ Issues passenger vessel certificates to vessel owners or charterers showing evidence of financial responsibility to pay judgments for personal injury or death or to repay fares for the nonperformance of a voyage or cruise



The FMC relies on a staff of professional and technical experts for support as they consider the decisions they must make to regulate oceanborne transportation. The professional staff is made up of lawyers, tariff and transportation specialists, economists, and Area Representatives.

Lawyers at the Commission advise the staff, handle administrative cases before Commission Administrative Law Judges and argue cases before the Commissioners. Area Representatives serve in major port areas and provide information, liaison and investigatory services. Other staff members analyze practices of the shipping industry to determine whether they are complying with the law; determine whether rates tend to be discriminatory or otherwise unlawful; issue licenses to ocean transportation intermediaries; issue certificates (casualty and nonperformance) to passenger vessel operators; perform industry/trade analyses; and provide Alternative Dispute Resolution to the industry.

The FMC is called upon to resolve questions about violations of shipping laws of the United States or regulations of the Federal Maritime Commission. The primary focus is to promote fairness and cooperation among the industries and entities subject to FMC regulation.

## Federal Maritime Commission

800 North Capitol Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20573

202-523-5725.....Secretary  
202-523-5843.....Licensing  
202-523-5818.....Bonding  
202-523-5793.....Agreements  
202-523-5856.....Service Contracts and Tariffs  
202-523-5773.....Human Resources  
202-523-5807; 866-448-9586 (toll free).....Consumer Affairs and Dispute Resolution Services

## Area Representatives

### Headquarters Representative

202-523-0300  
mcarley@fmc.gov

### South Florida

954-963-5362  
amargolis@fmc.gov  
954-963-5284  
emintz@fmc.gov

### New Orleans

504-589-6662  
bjohnson@fmc.gov

### Houston

281-386-8211  
dzezima@fmc.gov

### New York

718-553-2228  
emingione@fmc.gov  
718-553-2223  
jcastellano@fmc.gov

### Los Angeles

310-514-4905  
oclark@fmc.gov  
nasandas@fmc.gov

### Seattle

253-922-7622  
mmoneck@fmc.gov

