

One Hundred Tenth Congress  
of the  
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Thursday,  
the third day of January, two thousand and eight*

An Act

To amend chapter 13 of title 17, United States Code (relating to the vessel hull design protection), to clarify the definitions of a hull and a deck.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of  
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. VESSEL HULL DESIGN PROTECTION.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Vessel Hull Design Protection Amendments of 2008”.

(b) **DESIGNS PROTECTED.**—Section 1301(a) of title 17, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **VESSEL FEATURES.**—The design of a vessel hull, deck, or combination of a hull and deck, including a plug or mold, is subject to protection under this chapter, notwithstanding section 1302(4).”.

(c) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Section 1301(a) of title 17, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Department of Defense rights in a registered design under this chapter, including the right to build to such registered design, shall be determined solely by operation of section 2320 of title 10 or by the instrument under which the design was developed for the United States Government.”.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 1301(b) of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “vessel hull, including a plug or mold,” and inserting “vessel hull or deck, including a plug or mold,”;

(2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) A ‘hull’ is the exterior frame or body of a vessel, exclusive of the deck, superstructure, masts, sails, yards, rigging, hardware, fixtures, and other attachments.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) A ‘deck’ is the horizontal surface of a vessel that covers the hull, including exterior cabin and cockpit surfaces,

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and exclusive of masts, sails, yards, rigging, hardware, fixtures,  
and other attachments.”.

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

*Vice President of the United States and  
President of the Senate.*