

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
200 East Bay Street  
Charleston, SC 29401

OTF



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

DATE: March 14, 2007

**PORT OF CHARLESTON NOTICE NO: FY 2007-16**

**TO:** Vessel Carriers, Owners, Agents, Terminal Operators, and Other Interested Parties

**SUBJECT:** Passenger Service Act

The Passenger Vessel Services Act (PVSA) prohibits foreign vessels and U.S. flagged non-coastwise vessels from transporting passengers between ports or places in the United States. CBP Field Officers or Managers (including Port Directors) do not have the authority to deny, approve or waive the provisions of the PVSA or issue any decision, which in effect interprets provisions in the PVSA or 19CFR 4.50(b).

CBP has ruled that only coastwise riders allowed to move coastwise are individuals **"directly and substantially connected with the operation, navigation, ownership, or business of the vessel"**. Other coastwise riders are considered passengers and would not be allowed to disembark. All individuals onboard the vessel are to be listed on the CBP Form I-418. Any use of unqualified vessels for the transportation of persons in violation of the coastwise laws administered by CBP are subject to potential penalty action.

The owner or charterer of a foreign vessel or any other interested person may request an advisory ruling as to whether the voyage would be considered to be a coastwise violation for the transportation of passengers. **ALL** requests for waivers or clarifications are to be directed to Cargo Security, Carriers and Immigration Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings (OR&R), Office of International Trade at (202) 572-8730.

*Pamela M. Zaresk*

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Area Port Director