

Approved: January 16, 2012.
M. Robb Hyde,
Commander, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate, General (Admiralty and Maritime Law).

Dated: January 23, 2012.
J.M. Beal,
Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

32 CFR Part 706

Certifications and Exemptions Under the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy (DoN) is amending its certifications and exemptions under the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS), to reflect that the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (DAJAG) (Admiralty and Maritime Law) has determined that USS ARLINGTON (LPD 24) is a vessel of the Navy which, due to its special construction and purpose, cannot fully comply with certain provisions of the 72 COLREGS without interfering with its special function as a naval ship. The intended effect of this rule is to warn mariners in waters where 72 COLREGS apply.

DATES: This rule is effective January 30, 2012 and is applicable beginning January 16, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Jaewon Choi, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Admiralty Attorney, (Admiralty and Maritime Law), Office of the Judge Advocate General, Department of the Navy, 1322 Patterson Ave. SE., Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066, telephone (202) 685-5040.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the authority granted in 33 U.S.C. 1605, the DoN amends 32 CFR part 706.

This amendment provides notice that the DAJAG (Admiralty and Maritime Law), under authority delegated by the Secretary of the Navy, has certified that USS ARLINGTON (LPD 24) is a vessel of the Navy which, due to its special construction and purpose, cannot fully comply with the following specific provisions of 72 COLREGS without interfering with its special function as a naval ship: Rule 27(a)(i) and (b)(i), pertaining to the placement of all-round task lights in a vertical line; Annex I, paragraph 3(a), pertaining to the horizontal distance between the forward and after masthead lights; and Annex I, paragraph 2(k) as described in Rule 30(a)(i), pertaining to the vertical separation between anchor lights. The DAJAG (Admiralty and Maritime Law) has also certified that the lights involved are located in closest possible compliance with the applicable 72 COLREGS requirements.

Moreover, it has been determined, in accordance with 32 CFR parts 296 and 701, that publication of this amendment for public comment prior to adoption is impracticable, unnecessary, and

contrary to public interest since it is based on technical findings that the placement of lights on this vessel in a manner differently from that prescribed herein will adversely affect the vessel's ability to perform its military functions.

List of Subjects in 32 CFR Part 706

Marine safety, Navigation (water), and Vessels.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, amend part 706 of title 32 of the CFR as follows:

PART 706—CERTIFICATIONS AND EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA, 1972

- 1. The authority citation for part 706 continues to read:
Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1605.
- 2. Section 706.2 is amended as follows:
 - A. In Table Three by adding, in alpha numerical order, by vessel number, an entry for USS ARLINGTON (LPD 24); and
 - B. In Table Four by adding, in alpha numerical order, by vessel number, and entry for USS ARLINGTON (LPD 24); and
 - C. In Table Five by adding, in alpha numerical order, by vessel number, and entry for USS ARLINGTON (LPD 24).

§ 706.2 Certifications of the Secretary of the Navy under Executive Order 11964 and 33 U.S.C. 1605.

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TABLE THREE

Vessel	No.	Masthead lights arc of visibility; rule 21(a)	Side lights arc of visibility; rule 21(b)	Stern light arc of visibility; rule 21(c)	Side lights distance inboard of ship's sides in meters 3(b) Annex 1	Stern light, distance forward of stern in meters; rule 21(c)	Forward anchor light, height above hull in meters; 2(k) Annex 1	Anchor lights relationship of aft light to forward light in meters 2(k) Annex 1
USS ARLINGTON	LPD 24							1.62 below

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TABLE FOUR

Vessel	Number	Angle in degrees of task lights off vertical as viewed from directly ahead or astern
USS ARLINGTON	LPD 24	10

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TABLE FIVE

Vessel	No.	Masthead lights not over all other lights and obstructions. Annex I, sec. 2(f)	Forward mast-head light not in forward quarter of ship. Annex I, sec. 3(a)	After mast-head light less than 1/2 ship's length aft of forward mast-head light. Annex I, sec. 3(a)	Percentage horizontal separation attained
USS ARLINGTON	LPD 24			X	71

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Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 3

RIN 2900-AN28

Dental Conditions

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.**ACTION:** Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adopts as a final rule the proposal to amend its adjudication regulations regarding service connection of dental conditions for treatment purposes. This amendment clarifies that principles governing determinations by VA's Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) for service connection of dental conditions for the purpose of establishing eligibility for dental

treatment by VA's Veterans Health Administration (VHA), apply only when VHA requests information or a rating from VBA for those purposes. This amendment also clarifies existing regulatory provisions and reflects the respective responsibilities of VHA and VBA in determinations concerning eligibility for dental treatment.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This amendment is effective February 29, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Arlene George, M.D., MPH, Regulations Staff (211D), Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9700. (This is not a toll-free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a document published in the **Federal Register** on March 17, 2011 (76 FR 14600), VA proposed to amend 38 CFR 3.381, which identifies some of the circumstances under which dental conditions that may not qualify as disabilities for purposes of VA disability compensation may nevertheless be service connected for purposes of VA dental treatment under 38 U.S.C. 1712 and 38 CFR 17.161; clarifies existing regulatory provisions; and reflects the respective responsibilities of VHA and VBA in determinations concerning eligibility for dental treatment. We

proposed redesignation of paragraphs (a) through (f) as paragraphs (b) through (g) and the addition of new paragraph (a) that explains the situations when VHA will refer a claim to VBA. We also proposed to amend redesignated paragraph (b) to clarify what conditions will be service connected for treatment purposes. Additionally, we proposed removal of the following sentence from redesignated paragraph (c): "When applicable, the rating activity will determine whether the condition is due to combat or other in-service trauma, or whether the Veteran was interned as a prisoner of war." This sentence is being removed because it is repetitive of portions of paragraph (a).

Interested persons were invited to submit written comments to VA on or before May 16, 2011. In response to the proposed rule, VA received four (4) public comments. Of these comments, two were beyond the scope of the rulemaking: One involved comprehensive dental care for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida and the other suggested revision of the criteria for service personnel to obtain dental care. Therefore, no changes were made based on these comments.