

ALCOAST 579/08  
COMDTNOTE 16000  
SUBJ: SMALL BUSINESS NON-RETALIATION POLICY

A. THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT FAIRNESS ACT OF 1996,  
PUBLIC LAW NO 104-121.

1. THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN OF THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION (SBA) ASKED EACH FEDERAL AGENCY TO ADOPT A POLICY  
THAT THE AGENCY WILL NOT RETALIATE AGAINST SMALL BUSINESSES THAT  
QUESTION OR COMPLAIN ABOUT THE WAY THE AGENCY DOES BUSINESS.

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF (A), THE COMMANDANT APPROVED A STATEMENT  
OF COAST GUARDS NON-RETALIATION POLICY ON 11FEB04. THAT POLICY WAS  
PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER ON 18MAR04 (69 FR 12864) AND IS  
RESTATED IN PARAGRAPH 3.

3. "IF YOU QUESTION OR LODGE A COMPLAINT REGARDING A COAST GUARD  
POLICY OR ACTION, THE COAST GUARD WILL NOT RETALIATE AGAINST YOU IN  
ANY FASHION. THE COAST GUARD WANTS YOU TO BE ABLE TO COMMENT,  
QUESTION, OR LODGE A COMPLAINT ABOUT OUR POLICIES OR ACTION WITHOUT  
FEAR THAT WE WILL RETALIATE OR TRY TO DISCOURAGE FUTURE QUESTIONS  
OR COMPLAINTS. IF YOU THINK THE COAST GUARD HAS BROKEN THIS  
PROMISE, WE WILL INVESTIGATE, TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION, AND MAKE  
SURE THAT MISTAKES ARE NOT REPEATED. YOU MAY COMMENT, ASK  
QUESTIONS, OR FILE A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE COAST GUARD POLICIES OR  
ACTIONS BY CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COAST GUARD OFFICE, OR YOU CAN  
ALSO CONTACT THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF THE  
NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN AT 888-REG-FAIR (734-3247), FAX 202-741-5719,  
EMAIL: OMBUDSMAN (AT) SBA.GOV. SMALL BUSINESSES GENERALLY ARE  
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED AND ARE NOT DOMINANT IN THEIR  
FIELD. IF YOU NEED HELP DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT YOUR BUSINESS  
QUALIFIES AS A "SMALL BUSINESS", CONTACT THE SBAS OFFICE OF THE  
NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN USING THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THIS PARAGRAPH."

4. UNITS SHOULD CONFORM THEIR ACTIVITIES AND DEALINGS WITH SMALL  
BUSINESSES TO COMPLY WITH THIS POLICY. ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING  
THIS POLICY SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF REGULATIONS AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, 202-372-3864.

5. RELEASED BY RADM W. D.