

What Are U.S. Coastwise Laws?

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Also known as maritime cabotage laws, **U.S. coastwise laws** reserve U.S. domestic maritime trade to qualified U.S. registered (referred to as “U.S.-flag” vessels). These laws are also commonly referred to as [the Jones Act](#). One of these coastwise laws, the Passenger Vessel Services Act, reserves the transportation of passengers between U.S. ports, or points, to qualified U.S.-flag vessels.

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