

1 construction of that type of vessel in a foreign
2 shipyard; and

3 “(iii) any other support payments
4 needed to make a vessel commercially via-
5 ble in foreign commerce.

6 “(B) BID TEAM.—In the case of an eligible
7 entity that is a bid team described in section
8 53601(3)(B), such team shall jointly submit an
9 application under this subsection for inclusion
10 in the Fleet.

11 “(4) ACCEPTANCE INTO FLEET.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
13 shall evaluate eligible applications submitted
14 under this subsection in order to, in accordance
15 with this paragraph, select applications that
16 meet the requirements of this section for ac-
17 ceptance in the Fleet.

18 “(B) CITIZENSHIP PREFERENCE.—In se-
19 lecting applications to meet the requirements of
20 this section, the Administrator shall ensure, to
21 the extent sufficient qualified applications are
22 received under this subsection, that not less
23 than 25 percent of vessels selected for the Fleet
24 shall be owned or operated by a covered entity

1 that is, or a bid team led by, a citizen of the
2 United States under section 50501.

3 “(C) PRIORITY.—In evaluating eligible ap-
4 plications for selection in the Fleet and subject
5 to subparagraph (B), the Administrator shall
6 give priority to—

7 “(i) applications that represent the
8 best value to the Federal Government; and

9 “(ii) applications for vessels, or for
10 vessels providing services, that are deter-
11 mined by the Maritime Security Board to
12 have capabilities critical to the national
13 and economic security of the United
14 States.

15 “(D) RELATIONSHIP TO THE TANKER SE-
16 curity FLEET.—If the most recent Mobility
17 Capability Requirements Study produced by
18 United States Transportation Command identi-
19 fies a need for a fleet of tanker vessels that are
20 vessels of the United States that exceeds the
21 size of the Tanker Security Fleet established
22 under chapter 534 of this title, the Adminis-
23 trator, in coordination with the Maritime Secu-
24 rity Board, may select for inclusion in the Fleet