

Subpart L—Expedited Hearings

§ 20.1201 Application.

(a) This subpart applies whenever the Coast Guard suspends a merchant mariner's license, certificate of registry, or document without a hearing under 46 U.S.C. 7702(d).

(b) The Coast Guard may, for 45 days or less, suspend and seize a license, certificate, or document if, when acting under the authority of the license, certificate, or document,—

(1) A mariner performs a safety-sensitive function on a vessel; and

(2) There is probable cause to believe that he or she—

(i) Has performed the safety-sensitive function in violation of law or Federal regulation regarding use of alcohol or a dangerous drug;

(ii) Has been convicted of an offense that would prevent the issuance or renewal of the license, certificate, or document; or,

(iii) Three years or less before the start of an S&R proceeding, has been convicted of an offense described in subparagraph 205(a)(3)(A) or (B) of the National Driver Register Act of 1982 (23 U.S.C. 401, note).

§ 20.1202 Filing of pleadings.

(a) *Complaint.* If the Coast Guard has temporarily suspended a merchant mariner's license, certificate of registry, or document, it shall immediately file a complaint under § 20.307. The complaint must contain both a copy of a notice of temporary suspension and an affidavit stating the authority and reason for temporary suspension.

(b) *Answer.* In a case under this subpart—

(1) § 20.308 does not govern answers, and

(2) The respondent shall therefore enter his or her answer at the pre-hearing conference.

§ 20.1203 Commencement of expedited hearings.

Upon receipt of a complaint with a copy of the notice of temporary suspension and the affidavit supporting the complaint, the Chief ALJ will immediately assign an ALJ and designate the case for expedited hearing.

§ 20.1205 Motion for return of temporarily suspended license, certificate of registry, or document.

(a) *Procedure.* At any time during the expedited hearing, the respondent may move that his or her license, certificate of registry, or document be returned on the grounds that the agency lacked probable cause for temporary suspension. The motion must be in writing and explain why the agency lacked probable cause.

(b) *Ruling.* If the ALJ grants the motion, the ALJ may issue such orders as are necessary for the return of the suspended license, certificate, or document and for the matter to continue in an orderly way under standard procedure.

§ 20.1206 Discontinuance of expedited hearings.

(a) *Procedure.* At any time during the expedited hearing, the respondent may move that the hearing discontinue and that the matter continue under standard procedure. A motion to discontinue must be in writing and explain why the case is inappropriate for expedited hearing.

(b) *Ruling.* If the ALJ grants the motion to discontinue, the ALJ may issue such orders as are necessary for the matter to continue in an orderly way under standard procedure.

§ 20.1207 Pre-hearing conferences.

(a) *When held.* As early as practicable, the ALJ shall order and conduct a pre-hearing conference. He or she may order the holding of the conference in person, or by telephonic or electronic means.

(b) *Answer.* The respondent shall enter his or her answer at the pre-hearing conference. If the answer is an admission, the ALJ shall either issue an appropriate order or schedule a hearing on the order.

(c) *Content.* (1) At the pre-hearing conference, the parties shall:

(i) Identify and simplify the issues in dispute and prepare an agreed statement of issues, facts, and defenses.

(ii) Establish a simplified procedure appropriate to the matter.

(iii) Fix a time and place for the hearing 30 days or less after the temporary suspension.

(iv) Discuss witnesses and exhibits.

(2) The ALJ shall issue an order directing the exchange of witness lists and documents.

(d) *Order.* Before the close of the pre-hearing conference, the ALJ shall issue an order setting forth any agreements reached by the parties. The order must specify the issues for the parties to address at the hearing.

(e) *Procedures not to cause delay.* Neither any filing of pleadings or motions, nor any conduct of discovery, may interfere with—

(1) The holding of the hearing 30 days or less after the temporary suspension or

(2) The closing of the record early enough for the issuance of an initial decision 45 days or less after the temporary suspension.

(f) *Times.* The ALJ may shorten the time for any act required or permitted under this subpart to enable him or her to issue an initial decision 45 days or less after the temporary suspension.

§ 20.1208 Expedited hearings.

(a) *Procedures.* As soon as practicable after the close of the pre-hearing conference, the ALJ shall hold a hearing, under subpart G of this part, on any issue that remains in dispute.

(b) *Oral and written argument.* (1) Each party may present oral argument at the close of the hearing or present—

(i) Proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law; and

(ii) Post-hearing briefs, under § 20.710.

(2) The ALJ shall issue a schedule, such as will enable him or her to consider the findings and briefs without delaying the issuance of the decision.

(c) *ALJ's decision.* The ALJ may issue his or her decision as an oral decision from the bench. Alternatively, he or she may issue a written decision. He or she shall issue the decision 45 days or less after the temporary suspension.

§ 20.1209 Appeals of ALJs' decisions.

Any party may appeal the ALJ's decision as provided in subpart J.

Subpart M—Supplementary Evidentiary Rules for Suspension and Revocation Hearings

§ 20.1301 Purpose.

This subpart contains evidentiary rules that apply only in certain circumstances in S&R proceedings. They supplement, not supplant, the evidentiary rules in subpart H.

§ 20.1303 Authentication and certification of extracts from shipping articles, logbooks, and the like.

(a) The investigating officer, the Coast Guard representative, any other commissioned officer of the Coast Guard, or any official custodian of extracts from shipping articles, logbooks, or records in the custody of the Coast Guard may authenticate and certify the extracts.

(b) Authentication and certification must include a statement that the person acting has seen the original, compared the copy with it, and found the copy to be a true one. This person shall sign his or her name and identify himself or herself by rank or title and by duty station.

§ 20.1305 Admissibility and weight of entries from logbooks.

(a) Any entry in any official logbook of a vessel concerning an offense enumerated in 46 U.S.C. 11501, made in substantial compliance with the procedural requirements of 46 U.S.C. 11502, is admissible in evidence and constitutes *prima facie* evidence of the facts recited.

(b) Any entry in any such logbook made in substantial compliance with the procedural requirements of 46 U.S.C. 11502 may receive added weight from the ALJ.

§ 20.1307 Use of judgments of conviction.

(a) A judgment of conviction by a Federal court is conclusive in any S&R proceeding under this part concerning any act or offense described in 46 U.S.C. 7703 or 7704 when the act or offense is the same as in the Federal conviction.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, no judgment of conviction by a State court is conclusive