

Subpart D—Investigations

§ 5.101 Conduct of investigations.

(a) Investigations may be initiated in any case in which it appears that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the holder of a license, certificate or document issued by the Coast Guard may have:

(1) Committed an act of incompetency, misconduct, or negligence while acting under the authority of a license, certificate or document;

(2) Violated or failed to comply with subtitle II of title 46, U.S.C., a regulation prescribed under this subtitle, or any other law or regulations intended to promote marine safety or to protect the navigable waters, while acting under the authority of a license, certificate or document;

(3) Been convicted of a dangerous drug law violation, or has been a user of, or addicted to the use of, a dangerous drug, so as to be subject to the provisions of 46 U.S.C. 7704.

(b) In order to promote full disclosure and facilitate determinations as to the cause of marine casualties, no admission made by a person during an investigation under this part or part 4 of this title may be used against that person in a proceeding under this part, except for impeachment.

§ 5.103 Powers of investigating officer.

During an investigation, the investigating officer may administer oaths, issue subpoenas in accordance with subpart F of this title, and require persons having knowledge of the subject matter of the investigation to answer questions.

§ 5.105 Course of action available.

During an investigation, the investigating officer may take appropriate action as follows:

(a) Issue complaint.

(b) Accept voluntary surrender of a license, certificate or document.

(c) Accept voluntary deposit of a license, certificate or document.

(d) Refer the case to others for further action. The investigating officer may refer the case to the Commandant or to an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, at any port for completion of administrative action if an adequate

basis for action is found and the person under investigation and/or witnesses are not locally available.

(e) Give a written warning. The investigating officer may give a warning to any person holding a license, certificate or document. Refusal to accept the written warning will normally result in a withdrawal of the warning and the referral of charges. An unrejected warning will become a part of the person's record.

(f) Close the case.

[CGD 82-002, 50 FR 32184, Aug. 9, 1985, as amended by USCG-1998-3472, 64 FR 28075, May 24, 1999]

§ 5.107 Service of complaints.

(a) When the investigating officer determines that an S&R proceeding is appropriate, he or she shall prepare and serve a complaint in accordance with 33 CFR part 20.

(b) When the investigating officer serves the complaint, he or she shall also advise the respondent—

(1) Of the nature of S&R proceedings and their possible results;

(2) Of the right to be represented at the hearing by another person, who may, but need not, be a lawyer;

(3) Of the right to obtain witnesses, records, and other evidence by subpoena; and

(4) That failure or refusal to answer the complaint or to appear at the time, date, and place specified for the hearing may result in a finding of default, which will constitute an admission of the facts alleged in the complaint and the waiver of his or her right to a hearing.

[USCG-1998-3472, 64 FR 28075, May 24, 1999]

Subpart E—Deposit or Surrender of License, Certificate or Document

§ 5.201 Voluntary deposits in event of mental or physical incompetence.

(a) A holder may deposit a license, certificate, or document with the Coast Guard in any case where there is evidence of mental or physical incompetence. A voluntary deposit is accepted on the basis of a written agreement, the original of which will be given to the holder, which specifies the conditions upon which the Coast Guard will

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return the license, certificate, or document to the holder.

(b) Where the mental or physical incompetence of a holder of a license, certificate, or document is caused by use of or addiction to dangerous drugs, a voluntary deposit will only be accepted contingent on the following circumstances:

(1) The holder is enrolled in a bona fide drug abuse rehabilitation program;

(2) The holder's incompetence did not cause or contribute to a marine casualty;

(3) The incompetence was reported to the Coast Guard by the individual or any other person and was not discovered as a result of a Federal, State or local government investigation; and

(4) The holder has not voluntarily deposited or surrendered a license, certificate, or document, or had a license, certificate, or document revoked for a drug related offense on a prior occasion.

(c) Where the mental or physical incompetence of a holder of a license, certificate, or document is caused by use or addiction to alcohol, a voluntary deposit will only be accepted contingent on the following circumstances:

(1) The holder is enrolled in a bona fide alcohol abuse rehabilitation program;

(2) The holder's incompetence did not cause or contribute to a marine casualty; and

(3) The incompetence was reported to the Coast Guard by the individual or any other person and was not discovered as a result of a Federal, State, or local government investigation.

(d) Where the conditions of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section are not met, the holder may only surrender such license, certificate, or document in accordance with § 5.203.

[CGD 84-099, 52 FR 47535, Dec. 14, 1987]

§ 5.203 Voluntary surrender to avoid hearing.

(a) Any holder may surrender a license, certificate or document to the Coast Guard in preference to appearing at a hearing.

(b) A holder voluntarily surrendering a license, certificate or document shall sign a written statement containing the stipulations that:

(1) The surrender is made voluntarily in preference to appearing at a hearing;

(2) All rights to the license, certificate or document surrendered are permanently relinquished; and,

(3) Any rights with respect to a hearing are waived.

(c) A voluntary surrender of a license, certificate or document to an investigating officer in preference to appearing at a hearing is not to be accepted by an investigating officer unless the investigating officer is convinced that the holder fully realizes the effect of such surrender.

§ 5.205 Return or issuance of a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariners document.

(a) A person may request the return of a voluntarily deposited license, certificate, or document at any time, provided he or she can demonstrate a satisfactory rehabilitation or cure of the condition which caused the incompetence; has complied with any other conditions of the written agreement executed at the time of deposit; and complies with the physical and professional requirements for issuance of a license, certificate, or document.

(b) Where the voluntary deposit is based on incompetence due to drug abuse, the deposit agreement shall provide that the license, certificate, or document will not be returned until the person:

(1) Successfully completes a bona fide drug abuse rehabilitation program;

(2) Demonstrates complete non-association with dangerous drugs for a minimum of six months after completion of the rehabilitation program; and

(3) Is actively participating in a bona fide drug abuse monitoring program.

(c) Where the voluntary deposit is based on incompetence due to alcohol abuse, the deposit agreement shall provide that the license, certificate, or document will not be returned until the person:

(1) Successfully completes a bona fide alcohol abuse rehabilitation program; and

(2) Is actively participating in a bona fide alcohol abuse monitoring program.

(d) The voluntary surrender of a license, certificate, or document is the