

- (i) the accuracy of examination questions;
- (ii) the accuracy and availability of examination references;
- (iii) the length of merchant mariner examinations; and
- (iv) the use of standard technologies in administering, scoring, and analyzing the examinations.

(B) **PROGRESS REPORT.**—The Coast Guard shall provide a progress report to the appropriate congressional committees on the review under this paragraph.

(5) **FULL MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED.**—The Coast Guard may convene the working group without all members present if any non-Coast-Guard representative is present.

(6) **NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT.**—The Secretary shall require all members of the working group to sign a nondisclosure agreement with the Secretary.

(7) **TREATMENT OF MEMBERS AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—A member of the working group who is not a Federal Government employee shall not be considered a Federal employee in the service or the employment of the Federal Government, except that such a member shall be considered a special government employee, as defined in section 202(a) of title 18 for purposes of sections 203, 205, 207, 208, and 209 of such title and shall be subject to any administrative standards of conduct applicable to an employee of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(8) **FORMAL EXAM REVIEW.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the Coast Guard Performance Technology Center—

(A) prioritizes the review of examinations required for merchant mariner credentials; and

(B) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016, completes a formal review, including an appropriate analysis, of the topics and testing methodology employed by the National Maritime Center for merchant seamen licensing.

(9) **FACA.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to any working group created under this section to review the Coast Guard’s merchant mariner credentialing examinations.

(d) **MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “merchant mariner credential” means a merchant seaman license, certificate, or document that the Secretary is authorized to issue pursuant to this title.

(Added Pub. L. 114–120, title III, §315(a)(1), Feb. 8, 2016, 130 Stat. 60; amended Pub. L. 114–328, div. C, title XXXV, §3503(a), (b)(1), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2775.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), (4)(A), (8)(B), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 114–120, which was approved Feb. 8, 2016.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(9), is Pub. L. 92–463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770,

which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

**AMENDMENTS**

2016—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 114–328, §3503(a), in introductory provisions, substituted “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016” for “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015”.

Subsec. (c)(1)(D). Pub. L. 114–328, §3503(b)(1)(A), substituted “engineer” for “engine”.

Subsec. (c)(4)(A), (8)(B). Pub. L. 114–328, §3503(a), substituted “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016” for “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015”.

Subsec. (c)(9). Pub. L. 114–328, §3503(b)(1)(B), inserted a period after “App”.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2016 AMENDMENT**

Amendment by Pub. L. 114–328 effective as if included in the enactment of Pub. L. 114–120, see section 3503(e) of Pub. L. 114–328, set out as a note under section 60 of Title 14, Coast Guard.

**DISCLOSURE TO CONGRESS**

Pub. L. 114–120, title III, §315(c), Feb. 8, 2016, 130 Stat. 62, provided that: “Nothing in this section [enacting this section and section 7116 of this title] may be construed to authorize the withholding of information from an appropriate inspector general, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, or the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.”

**CHAPTER 77—SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION**

- Sec. 7701. General.
- 7702. Administrative procedure.
- 7703. Bases for suspension or revocation.
- 7704. Dangerous drugs as grounds for revocation.
- 7705. Subpenas and oaths.
- 7706. Drug testing reporting.

**AMENDMENTS**

2004—Pub. L. 108–293, title IV, §414(b), Aug. 9, 2004, 118 Stat. 1047, added item 7706.

**§ 7701. General**

(a) The purpose of suspension and revocation proceedings is to promote safety at sea.

(b) Licenses, certificates of registry, and merchant mariners’ documents may be suspended or revoked for acts described in section 7703 of this title.

(c) When a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner’s document has been revoked under this chapter, the former holder may be issued a new license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner’s document only after—

(1) the Secretary decides, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, that the issuance is compatible with the requirement of good discipline and safety at sea; and

(2) the former holder provides satisfactory proof that the bases for revocation are no longer valid.

(d) The Secretary may prescribe regulations to carry out this chapter.

(Pub. L. 98–89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 546; Pub. L. 101–380, title IV, §4103(c), Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 511.)

**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES**

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source section (U.S. Code)</i>
7701 .....	46:239(g)

Section 7701 establishes the general purpose of suspension and revocation proceedings, which is to promote safety at sea. This section also provides the Secretary with the authority to suspend or revoke licenses, certificates, and documents, as well as the authority to issue a new license, certificate or document to an individual when the issuance is compatible with the requirements of good discipline and safety at sea. It also provides for necessary regulatory authority to carry out its purposes.

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-380 amended subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (c) read as follows: "When a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document has been revoked under this chapter, the former holder may be issued a new license, certificate, or document only after it has been decided, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, that the issuance is compatible with the requirements of good discipline and safety at sea."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-380 applicable to incidents occurring after Aug. 18, 1990, see section 1020 of Pub. L. 101-380, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2701 of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters.

§ 7702. Administrative procedure

(a) Sections 551-559 of title 5 apply to each hearing under this chapter about suspending or revoking a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document.

(b) The individual whose license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document has been suspended or revoked under this chapter may appeal, within 30 days, the suspension or revocation to the Secretary.

(c)(1) The Secretary shall request a holder of a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document to make available to the Secretary, under section 206(b)(4) of the National Driver Register Act of 1982 (23 U.S.C. 401 note),<sup>1</sup> all information contained in the National Driver Register related to an offense described in section 205(a)(3)(A) or (B) of that Act committed by the individual.

(2) The Secretary shall require the testing of the holder of a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document for use of alcohol and dangerous drugs in violation of law or Federal regulation. The testing may include pre-employment (with respect to dangerous drugs only), periodic, random, and reasonable cause testing, and shall include post-accident testing.

(d)(1) The Secretary may temporarily, for not more than 45 days, suspend and take possession of the license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document held by an individual if—

(A) that individual performs a safety sensitive function on a vessel, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) there is probable cause to believe that the individual—

(i) has, while acting under the authority of that license, certificate, or document, 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;

(iii) within the 3-year period preceding the initiation of a suspension proceeding, has been convicted of an offense described in section 30304(a)(3)(A) or (B) of title 49; or

(iv) is a security risk that poses a threat to the safety or security of a vessel or a public or commercial structure located within or adjacent to the marine environment.

(2) If a license, certificate, or document is temporarily suspended under this section, an expedited hearing under subsection (a) of this section shall be held within 30 days after the temporary suspension.

(Pub. L. 98-89, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 546; Pub. L. 99-36, §1(a)(3), May 15, 1985, 99 Stat. 67; Pub. L. 101-380, title IV, §4103(a)(1), Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 510; Pub. L. 105-383, title III, §304(a), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3419; Pub. L. 108-293, title IV, §407, title VI, §609(2), Aug. 9, 2004, 118 Stat. 1044, 1058.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 2 columns: Revised section, Source section (U.S. Code). Row 1: 7702

Section 7702(a) provides that Sections 551-559 of title 5 of the United States Code shall apply to each involving the suspension or revocation of a license, certificate, or document.

Subsection (b) allows an individual whose license, certificate, or document has been suspended or revoked to appeal it to the Secretary within 30 days.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 205(a)(3)(A) or (B) and 206(b)(4) of the National Driver Register Act of 1982, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), are sections 205(a)(3)(A), (B) and 206(b)(4) of Pub. L. 97-364, which were set out in a note under section 401 of Title 23, Highways, and were repealed and restated in sections 30304 and 30305 of Title 49, Transportation, by Pub. L. 103-272, §§1(e), 7(b), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 862, 1379.

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 108-293, §407(1), substituted "if—" for "if, when acting under the authority of that license, certificate, or document—" in introductory provisions.

Subsec.(d)(1)(B)(i). Pub. L. 108-293, §407(2), inserted " , while acting under the authority of that license, certificate, or document," after "has".

Subsec. (d)(1)(B)(iii). Pub. L. 108-293, §609(2), substituted "section 30304(a)(3)(A) or (B) of title 49" for "section 205(a)(3)(A) or (B) of the National Driver Register Act of 1982".

Subsec. (d)(1)(B)(iv). Pub. L. 108-293, §407(3)-(5), added cl. (iv).

1998—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 105-383 inserted second sentence and struck out former second sentence which read as follows: "The testing may include preemployment (with respect to dangerous drugs only), periodic, random, reasonable cause, and post accident testing."

1990—Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 101-380 added subsecs. (c) and (d).

1985—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-36 substituted "mariner's" for "mariners".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-380 applicable to incidents occurring after Aug. 18, 1990, see section 1020 of Pub. L. 101-380, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2701 of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters.

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.