

- (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; Pub. L. 115-232, div. C, title XXXV, §3541(b)(12), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 2323; Pub. L. 115-282, title VI, §601(c)(3)(B), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4289.)

#### 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

2018—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 115-232 substituted “Commandant” for “Commandant of the Coast Guard” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c)(1)(C). Pub. L. 115-282 inserted “National” before “Merchant Marine”.

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

#### 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.