

USCG Alcohol Incidence Data – Misconduct Enforcement Cases

**National Academy of
Sciences
Committee on
Alcohol at Sea
May 28, 2024**



Alcohol Incidents Leading to an Enforcement Action

Alcohol Enforcement Cases Against Merchant Mariners by CY

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Total
91	46	20	53	63	42	315

** Includes incidents from January 1 - May 20, 2024*



Applicable Regulations

- ✓ 46 CFR 5.27 – Misconduct (233 cases)
- ✓ 46 CFR 5.29 – Negligence (4)
- ✓ 46 CFR 5.31 – Incompetence (1)
- ✓ 46 CFR 5.33 – Violation of law or regulation (100)
- ✓ 46 CFR 5.35 – Prior substance abuse conviction (3)
- ✓ 46 USC § 7702 – Temporary suspension (1)
- ✓ 46 USC § 7703 – Negligence contributing to death (1)



Alcohol Offenses by Year and Vessel Service

Type of Vessel	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Passenger Ship	53	22	2	18	30	23	148
Towing Vessel	15	5	5	8	3	7	43
General Dry Cargo Ship	9	5	1	7	8	1	31
Tank Ship	5	4	4	4	5	5	27
Ro-Ro Cargo Ship	4	3	3	1	3	2	16
Miscellaneous Vessel	1	1	4	3	3	1	13
Bulk Carrier	3	3		1	1	2	10
Barge	4	1	2	1			8
School Ship				4			4
Recreational (Charter)	2						2
Offshore		1					1
Research Ship				1			1



Alcohol Offenses Associated With a SASH Incident by CY

- **2019** – 3 cases
- **2020** – 2 cases
- **2021** – 1 case
- **2022** – 0 cases
- **2023*** – 4 cases
- **2024** – 0 cases through May 20th

** 2023 NDAA enacted in December 2022*

SASH offenses by type:

Sexual Assault – 5

Sexual Harassment – 4

Harassment – 1



Observations From Alcohol Misconduct Cases

- Majority of alcohol cases involve junior crew members who return from liberty or report for duty intoxicated.
- The sexual assault cases involving alcohol often included senior level mariners who used alcohol to reduce defenses of junior members.
- A small percentage of the cases involved alcohol being smuggled aboard the vessel or misuse of a liquor locker on a vessel engaged on international voyages.
- In many cases, alcohol was detected due to mandatory testing required after a marine casualty.



Questions?





Credentialing Fundamentals

National Academy of Sciences Committee on Alcohol at Sea May 28, 2024



Credentialing Requirements

- 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10 – Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC)
- 46 CFR 10.109(a): Officer endorsements (e.g., master, mate, chief engineer, first-class pilot, purser, etc.)
- 46 CFR 10.109(b): Rating endorsements (e.g., able seaman, ordinary seaman, qualified member of the engineer department, oiler, fireman, lifeboatmen, etc.)
- 46 CFR 10.225: Lists requirements for obtaining a MMC
 - 46 CFR 11: Details officer requirements
 - 46 CFR 12: Details rating requirements



Typical MMCs by Vessel Type

- In general, commercial vessels greater than 100 gross register tons (GRT) required all mariners to have officer or rating MMCs. (e.g., freight ships, tankers, large passenger vessels, seagoing towing vessels, offshore supply vessels, research vessels, etc.)
- Certain commercial vessels less than 100 GRT require only officer MMCs and the junior crewmembers are considered non-credentialed “deckhands”.
 - Includes thousands of small passenger and towing vessels.
- Commercial fishing vessels less than 200 GRT do not require any credentialed mariners.



Questions?

