

US Coast Guard Drug and Alcohol Testing Program

**National Academies of
Science
Committee on
Alcohol at Sea
May 28, 2024**



U.S. Coast Guard Chemical Testing Mission

**To Ensure the Safety and
Reliability of the Maritime
Transportation System by
Reducing and Preventing the
Incidences of Drug and Alcohol
Misuse by Merchant Marine
Personnel**



Applicable Regulations

- ✓ 33 CFR Part 95 – Operating a Vessel While Under the Influence of Alcohol or a Dangerous Drug
- ✓ 46 CFR Part 4 – Marine Casualties and Investigations
- ✓ 46 CFR Part 16 – Chemical Testing
- ✓ 49 CFR Part 40 – Procedures For Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs



Authorities

The US Coast Guard has unique authorities to require drug and alcohol testing. These include:

- 46 USC 2103, 3306, 7101, 7301, 7701
- 33 USC 2071 and 46 USC 2302

The US Coast Guard is not subject to the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 (OTETA).



USCG Testing Events

1. PERIODIC
2. PRE-EMPLOYMENT
3. RANDOM
4. REASONABLE SUSPICION
5. POST-CASUALTY



Alcohol Testing

- The US Coast Guard requires alcohol testing for Reasonable Suspicion and Post-Casualty events.
- Alcohol test are screening tests with a limit of .04 Blood Alcohol Content.
- Screening devices must be approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- The US Coast Guard does not require DOT alcohol testing procedures or confirmatory testing.



Management Information System Reports

- Employers are required to file Management Information System Reports (MIS) with the US Coast Guard annually.
- US Coast Guard MIS reports reflect DOT drug testing data only. It does not collect non-DOT drug tests or alcohol tests.



Questions?



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