



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Recreational and Medicinal Marijuana Use Policies for Maritime Transportation Workers

The U.S. Coast Guard is providing this notice to ensure that mariners, marine employers, Medical Reviewing Officers and the public are knowledgeable of the continuing prohibition of marijuana use by those serving in safety-sensitive positions in the maritime transportation industry.

It is important to note that marijuana remains a drug listed in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. It remains unacceptable for any safety-sensitive employee serving in the maritime industry and subject to drug testing under the Department of Transportation's drug testing regulations to use marijuana. The Department of Transportation's Drug and Alcohol Testing Regulation – 49 CFR Part 40 – does not authorize the use of Schedule I drugs, including marijuana, for any reason.

As such, Medical Review Officers **will not** verify a drug test as negative based upon learning that the employee used "recreational marijuana" or "medicinal marijuana". **Furthermore, mariners/employees that hold a Merchant Mariner Credential and fail a drug test due to recreational or medicinal marijuana usage, will be subject to administrative action against their credential in accordance with federal regulations.**

The Coast Guard's regulation regarding recreational or medicinal drug usage is firmly aligned with the Department of Transportation's regulation on the use of Schedule I drugs. For more information regarding DOT's notices for "recreational marijuana" or "medicinal marijuana" please follow these links: <http://www.dot.gov/odapc/dot-recreational-marijuana-notice>, <http://www.dot.gov/odapc/medical-marijuana-notice>.

The intent of the U.S. Coast Guard is to assure the maritime community and the traveling public that our transportation system is the safest it can possibly be. This Marine Safety Information Bulletin is published to provide the highest visibility and notice of our effort in support of the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program.

For more information, please contact Mr. Patrick Mannion, Drug and Alcohol Program Manager, Commandant (CG-INV), U.S. Coast Guard, at (202) 372-1033.

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