

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,)	
Complainant,)	
)	Docket Number: 2025-0099
vs.)	
)	Enforcement Activity Number: 7764284
KRISTAL RICHARDSON,)	
Respondent.)	

ADMISSION ORDER

By: Honorable Jennifer A. Mehaffey, Administrative Law Judge

Issued: May 21, 2025

On May 15, 2025, the Coast Guard issued an Amended Complaint against Respondent, correcting the statutory and regulatory citations and asserting one count of Misconduct as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(B) and defined by 46 C.F.R. § 5.27.

In the Amended Complaint, the Coast Guard alleges Respondent was acting under the authority of her Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) on July 16, 2023, by serving as an Ordinary Seaman aboard the PRIDE OF AMERICA (ON 647914), as required by law or regulation. The Coast Guard further alleges:

1. On July 16, 2023, respondent was employed by Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL) (Bahamas) Ltd. and subject to NCL (Bahamas) Ltd.'s policies.
2. On July 16, 2023, NCL (Bahamas) Ltd. had a policy prohibiting employees from having a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) greater than 0.04 while onboard a company vessel.
3. On July 16, 2023, respondent had a BAC greater than 0.04 while onboard a company vessel, in violation of NCL (Bahamas) Ltd. Drug and Alcohol Policy.
4. Respondent's violation of NCL (Bahamas) Ltd.'s Drug and Alcohol Policy is Misconduct as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(B) and defined by 46 CFR § 5.27.

Based on these facts, the Coast Guard proposes a sanction of three (3) months outright suspension of Respondent's MMC.

Respondent has waived her right to answer the Amended Complaint, and relies on her original Answer filed April 16, 2025, admitting to the jurisdictional and factual allegations in the Complaint and agreeing with the Coast Guard's proposed order.

Upon consideration of the record, I hereby find that the allegations in the Amended Complaint are **PROVED BY ANSWER**. I find that on July 16, 2023, Respondent committed an act of Misconduct as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(B) and defined by 46 C.F.R. § 5.27.

SANCTION

I have carefully reviewed the Amended Complaint and Answer and find that the proposed sanction is appropriate under the provisions of 46 C.F.R. § 5.569.

WHEREFORE,

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent's Misconduct as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(B) and defined by 46 C.F.R. § 5.27 is **PROVED BY ANSWER**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent's MMC is **SUSPENDED OUTRIGHT FOR THREE (3) MONTHS**, commencing on the date Respondent deposits her credential with the Coast Guard.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, service of this decision on the parties and/or parties' representative(s) serves as notice of appeal rights set forth in 33 C.F.R. §§ 20.1001 – 20.1004. (Attachment A).

SO ORDERED.

Done and dated May 21, 2025
New York, NY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. MehaFFEY", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

HON. JENNIFER A. MEHAFFEY
Administrative Law Judge
United States Coast Guard