

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

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,)	
Complainant,)	
)	Docket Number: 2023-0363
vs.)	
)	MISLE Activity ID: 7778680
STERLEN RIHANE GRANT,)	
Respondent.)	

ADMISSION ORDER

Issued: October 18, 2023

By Order of Chief Administrative Law Judge: Walter J. Brudzinski

Appearances:

For the Coast Guard

LT Larry Schalles
USCG Sector Charleston

For the Respondent

Sterlen Rihane Grant, *Pro se*

ADMISSION ORDER

On October 13, 2023, the United States Coast Guard Sector Charleston (Coast Guard) issued a Complaint against STERLEN RIHANE GRANT (Respondent) seeking to suspend his Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC or credential) for committing misconduct under 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(B) and 46 C.F.R. § 5.27.

Specifically, the Coast Guard alleges on July 17, 2023, Respondent took a required pre-employment drug test pursuant to 46 C.F.R. Part 16, in which Respondent's specimen was determined to be a substitute specimen. Therefore, Respondent refused to take a required 46 C.F.R. Part 16 drug test, as stated in 49 C.F.R. § 40.191(b). Refusal to take a required drug test is misconduct as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(B) and defined by 46 C.F.R. § 5.27. In aggravation, the Coast Guard also alleges, substitution is an intentional act and interferes with the integrity of the testing process, which creates a risk of an impaired mariner continuing to serve in a safety sensitive position.

In Respondent's Answer, dated October 13, 2023, he admits to all jurisdictional and factual allegations, and agrees with the proposed sanction.

WHEREFORE,

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent's violation of misconduct under 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(B) and 46 C.F.R. § 5.27 is **PROVED BY ANSWER**. I have carefully reviewed the file and find that the proposed sanction is appropriate under the provisions of 46 C.F.R. § 5.569.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent's Merchant Mariner Credential is **SUSPENDED OUTRIGHT FOR TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS**, commencing the date it is deposited with the Coast Guard.



Hon Walter J. Brudzinski
Chief Administrative Law Judge
United States Coast Guard

Date: October 18, 2023