

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**  
Complainant

vs.

**DAVID WILLIAM HOLLARS,**  
Respondent

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Docket Number 2024-0080  
Enforcement Activity No. 7838093

**DEFAULT ORDER**

**Issued: August 27, 2024**

**By the Honorable George J. Jordan, Administrative Law Judge**

Appearances:

**Daniel Schaefer, Esq.**  
**Eric Bauer, Investigating Officer**  
**Suspension and Revocation National Center of Expertise**  
For the Coast Guard

**David William Hollars, *Pro se***  
For the Respondent

This matter comes before me on the United States Coast Guard's (Coast Guard) Motion for Default Order. As of the date of this order, David William Hollars (Respondent) has not responded to the Complaint nor the Motion for Default Order (Motion for Default). Upon review of the record and pertinent authority, the Coast Guard's Motion for Default is **GRANTED**.

### **Background**

On February 6, 2024, the Coast Guard filed a Complaint against Respondent, seeking revocation of Respondent's Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) [REDACTED], alleging he is a security risk that poses a threat to the safety or security of a vessel or structure located within or adjacent to the marine environment, as established by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(5). On June 3, 2023, the Coast Guard filed a Motion for Default due to Respondent's failure to file an answer to the Complaint.

The Coast Guard served the Complaint upon Respondent by express courier service to his residence at [REDACTED]. The record establishes that a person of suitable age and discretion residing at that residence accepted service of the Complaint on May 3, 2024, after which Respondent did not file an answer. Respondent also did not file a response to the Motion for Default served upon and signed for by Respondent at his residence by express courier service on June 7, 2024.

### **Discussion**

Under Coast Guard procedural rules, service of complaints and default motions are treated differently than most other filings. 33 C.F.R. § 20.304. The purpose of these requirements is to ensure a mariner is notified of any charges brought against his or her MMC, including suspension or revocation. Specifically, Table 20.304(g) describes when service of

various types of documents is considered complete. For complaints and default motions served by certified mail or express courier, service is complete only when delivered to the person's residence and signed for by either the respondent or another person of suitable age and discretion residing there. Additionally, the regulations require a respondent to "file a written answer to the complaint 20 days or less after service of the complaint." 33 C.F.R. § 20.308(a). An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) may find a respondent in default "upon failure to file a timely answer to the complaint or, after motion, upon failure to appear at a conference or hearing without good cause shown." 33 C.F.R. § 20.310(a).

Here, the Coast Guard properly served Respondent with the Complaint and Motion for Default. As Respondent has neither filed an answer nor availed himself of the opportunity to respond to the Motion for Default, I find Respondent in **DEFAULT**. A default constitutes an admission of all facts alleged in a complaint and a waiver of Respondent's right to a hearing on those facts. 33 C.F.R. § 20.310(c). See Appeal Decision 2682 (REEVES) (2008). Therefore, I find the following factual allegations in the Complaint **ADMITTED**.

1. On October 17, 2023, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) determined Respondent does not meet the security threat assessment standards described in 49 C.F.R. § 1572.5, poses an imminent security threat in accordance with 49 C.F.R. §1572.21(d)(3), and revoked Respondent's Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC), in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1572.5(b).
2. Respondent's ineligibility to hold a TWIC is proof Respondent is not eligible for an MMC, in accordance with 46 C.F.R. §§ 10.101 and 10.235(h).
3. Respondent is a security risk, as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(5).

Upon a finding of default, I am required to issue a decision against the Respondent pursuant to 33 C.F.R. § 20.310(d). After review of the record, I find that the deemed admitted facts are sufficient to establish that Respondent is a security risk, as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(5) and 46 C.F.R. § 10.203(a). Accordingly, I find the allegations set forth in the Complaint

**PROVED.** Based on this finding, as well as that a mariner whose TWIC has been revoked for a reason other than an administrative reason is ineligible for an MMC pursuant to 46 C.F.R. § 10.235(i), I find the facts alleged in the Complaint as to violation of security risk sufficient to warrant the sanction of **REVOCATION**.

**WHEREFORE,**

**ORDER**

Upon consideration of the record, I find Respondent in **DEFAULT**.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, in accordance with 33 C.F.R. § 20.310, I find the allegations set forth in the Complaint **PROVED**.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, all of Respondent's Coast Guard issued credentials, including Respondent's Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC), are **REVOKED**.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, Respondent shall immediately deliver all Coast Guard issued credentials, licenses, certificates, or documents, including the MMC, by mail, courier service, or in person to: Eric Bauer, Investigating Officer, Suspension and Revocation National Center of Expertise, 100 Forbes Drive, Martinsburg WV 25404-0001 In accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 2197, if **Respondent knowingly continues to use the Coast Guard issued MMC**, **Respondent may be subject to criminal prosecution**.

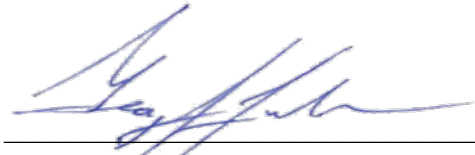
**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, pursuant to 33 C.F.R. § 20.310(e), for good cause shown, an ALJ may set aside a finding of default. A motion to set aside a finding of default may be filed with the ALJ Docketing Center in Baltimore. The motion may be sent to the U.S. Coast Guard Administrative Law Judge Docketing Center; Attention: Hearing Docket Clerk; Room 412; 40 S. Gay Street; Baltimore, MD 21202-4022.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, within three (3) years or less, Respondent may file a motion to reopen this matter and seek modification of the order of revocation upon a showing that the order of revocation is no longer valid, and the issuance of a new license, certificate, or document is compatible with the requirement of good discipline and safety at sea. See generally 33 C.F.R. § 20.904.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, service of this Default Order on the parties serves as notice of appeal rights set forth in 33 C.F.R. § 20.1001-20.1004 (Attachment A).

**SO ORDERED.**

Done and dated, August 27, 2024,  
Seattle, Washington



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GEORGE J. JORDAN  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE