

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

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**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,**

**Complainant,**

**vs.**

**ERROL ISAIAH WADE-CEPHAS,**

**Respondent.**

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**Docket Number: 2024-0143  
Enforcement Activity Number: 7862438**

**ORDER MEMORIALIZING BENCH DECISION**

**Issued by: Honorable Walter J. Brudzinski, Chief Administrative Law Judge**

**Issued: August 21, 2024**

On August 20, 2024, I convened a hearing in New York, NY in the above captioned case. Jennifer A. Mehaffey, Esq., and CWO Joseph Quitugua appeared for the United States Coast Guard (Coast Guard). Respondent Errol Isaiah Wade-Cephas represented himself.

During the hearing, the Coast Guard called five witnesses and offered sixteen exhibits, all of which were admitted. Respondent testified on his own behalf but did not offer any exhibits. At the close of the parties' presentations, they waived their right to file post-hearing briefs and agreed to a bench decision as described in 33 C.F.R. § 20.710.

After considering all the evidence in the record, I entered an oral decision as permitted by 33 C.F.R. § 20.710. As will be reflected in the transcript, I concluded the Coast Guard proved the charge alleged in its Complaint, specifically, that Respondent has been the user of a dangerous drug as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7704(b). The Coast Guard established, by a

preponderance of the evidence, that on May 31, 2023, Respondent took a required pre-employment drug test pursuant to 46 C.F.R. Part 16 and his urine specimen tested positive for marijuana metabolites.

Pursuant to law and regulations, I imposed the sanction of **REVOCATION** of Respondent's credentials. See 46 U.S.C. § 7704(b); 46 C.F.R. § 5.569. At the conclusion of the hearing, I provided Respondent's Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) to the Coast Guard. I encouraged Respondent to communicate with the Coast Guard regarding the potential for him to re-apply for an MMC in the future. I also advised Respondent of his appeal rights as set forth in 33 C.F.R. §§ 20.1001-1004. A copy of Respondent's appeal rights is attached to this order. See Attachment A.

Pursuant to 33 C.F.R. § 20.1001(a), Respondent may appeal this decision by filing a notice of appeal with the U.S. Coast Guard Administrative Law Judge Docketing Center; Attention: Hearing Docket Clerk; Room 412; 40 S. Gay Street; Baltimore, MD 21201-4022, 30 days or less after issuance of the decision, and shall provide a copy of the appeal to the Coast Guard. The deadline for Respondent to file a notice of appeal is **September 19, 2024**.

A separate order will follow serving a copy of the transcript on both parties once the undersigned receives a copy from the court reporter.

**SO ORDERED.**

Done and dated August 21, 2024  
New York, NY



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**HON. WALTER J. BRUDZINSKI  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**