

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

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,)	
Complainant,)	
)	Docket Number: 2026-0010
vs.)	
)	MISLE Activity ID: 8233155
MEL HOWARD STACKPOOLE,)	
Respondent.)	

ADMISSION ORDER

Issued: January 30, 2026

By Order of Administrative Law Judge: Hon. Jennifer A. Mehaffey

Appearances:

For the Coast Guard

Jason Urman Bartholomew
Jessica Ward
USCG Sector Detroit

For the Respondent

Mel Howard Stackpoole, *Pro se*

On January 9, 2026, the United States Coast Guard Sector Detroit (Coast Guard) issued a Complaint against Mel Howard Stackpoole (Respondent) for being convicted of an offense that would preclude the issuance of MMC (Merchant Mariner Credential or credential) as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(2).^{1 2}

In the Complaint, the Coast Guard alleges Respondent is the holder of a U.S. Coast Guard-issued Merchant Mariner Credentials. The Coast Guard further alleges:

1. On December 18, 2025, Respondent was convicted of violating 18 U.S.C. § 1519 - Knowing Falsification of a Record with the Intent to Impede the Proper Administration of a Matter Within the Jurisdiction of the Executive Branch of the United States, a felony, by the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division.
2. Respondent's conviction of violating 18 U.S.C. § 1519, is a conviction of an offense that would prevent the issuance or renewal of a Merchant Mariner Credential, as described in 46 U.S.C. § 7703(2).
3. In aggravation: Respondent's conviction was for knowingly altering and falsifying records and documents with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the proper administration of a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard, to wit: merchant mariner credential test results and course completion certificates.

¹ Although the Coast Guard dated the Complaint and Certificate of Service for the Complaint as January 7, 2026, the documents were not filed with the Coast Guard ALJ Docketing Center until January 9, 2026. I find the difference in the dates to be de minimis and does not affect my issuance of this Admission Order.

² Service of the Complaint was made by email. I note that email is not an acceptable method of service for a Complaint. See Table 1 to 33 CFR § 20.304(d). However, because no issue has been raised by the parties on proper service of the Complaint and Respondent acknowledged receipt of the Complaint when filing his Answer admitting to the jurisdictional and factual allegations and agreeing with the proposed sanction, I am providing notice that I find service of the Complaint to be complete and I waive the rule in this part to secure a just, speedy, and inexpensive determination. See 33 C.F.R. § 20.103(b).

Based on these facts, the Coast Guard proposes a sanction of revocation of Respondent's MMC.

In Respondent's Answer, dated January 23, 2026, he admits to all jurisdictional and factual allegations, and agrees with the proposed sanction.

Upon consideration of the record, I hereby find that the allegations in the Complaint are **PROVED BY ANSWER**. I find that on December 18, 2025, Respondent was convicted of an offense that would preclude the issuance of MMC as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(2).

SANCTION

I have carefully reviewed the 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 conviction that would preclude the issuance of an MMC as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(2) is **PROVED BY ANSWER**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent's MMC is **REVOKED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent immediately surrender his MMC to the Investigating Officers at the United States Coast Guard Sector Detroit, Investigations Division 110 Mt. Elliott Street, Detroit, MI 48207. If Respondent knowingly continues to use his credentials, he may be subject to criminal prosecution.

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).

Done and dated January 30, 2026
New York, NY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer A. MehaFFEY", is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

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