

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

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,)	
Complainant,)	
)	Docket Number: 2024-0312
vs.)	
)	Enforcement Activity Number: 7943963
CHRISTOPHER DAVID KOPEK,)	
Respondent.)	

ADMISSION ORDER

Issued: July 19, 2024

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

Appearances:

For the Coast Guard

LT Adrian Hill
USCG Sector Honolulu

For the Respondent

Christopher David Kopek, *Pro Se*

DECISION AND ORDER

The United States Coast Guard Sector Honolulu issued a Complaint against Christopher David Kopek (Respondent) on or about July 16, 2024, alleging two violations of misconduct under 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(B) and 46 C.F.R. § 5.27. Specifically, the Coast Guard alleges on May 3, 2024, Respondent was an employee of Norwegian Cruise Lines and subject to its policies while working as a crewmember aboard the cruise ship PRIDE OF AMERICA. Norwegian Cruise Line has a policy prohibiting employees from having a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) greater than 0.04% while onboard a company vessel. On this date, Respondent had a BAC greater than 0.04% while onboard a company vessel, in violation of Norwegian Cruise Line's Drug and Alcohol Policy.

The Coast Guard also alleges Respondent was wrongfully absent from the vessel without authorized leave on May 3, 2024. Respondent's violation of Norwegian Cruise Lines' Drug and Alcohol Policy and his absence from the vessel without authorized leave constitutes misconduct as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(B) and defined by 46 C.F.R. § 5.27. The Coast Guard proposes a sanction of six (6) months of outright suspension of Respondent's Merchant Mariner Credential (credential).

In Respondent's Answer, also dated July 16, 2024, he admits to all jurisdictional and factual allegations, and agrees with the proposed sanction.

WHEREFORE,

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent's violations of misconduct under 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(B) and 46 C.F.R. § 5.27 are **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 SIX (6) MONTHS**, commencing on the date Respondent deposits his credential with the Coast Guard.

Done and dated July 19, 2024
New York, NY



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