



# Marine Safety Information Bulletin

United States Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port Western Alaska

MSIB Number: 01-20  
Date: June 24, 2020

Sector Anchorage  
P.O. Box 5800  
JBER, AK 99505-0800

Phone: (907) 428-4200  
Fax: (907) 428-4218  
Email: [WesternAlaskaIO@uscg.mil](mailto:WesternAlaskaIO@uscg.mil)

---

## NON-CREDENTIALLED MARINER POSITIVE DRUG TESTS ON THE RISE

USCG Sector Anchorage Investigation Division has identified an upward trend in the number of positive drug tests for non-credentialed mariners throughout the Arctic and Western Alaska. The most common drug mariners test positive for is marijuana. The use, sale and possession of **marijuana** in the United States is **illegal under federal law** despite Alaska Statute 17.38, regulations for the use of marijuana. Non-credentialed mariners should be aware and educate themselves on the long term consequences of failing a Department of Transportation chemical test (post-accident, random, periodic, pre-employment, or reasonable cause). The long-term consequences will have a significant impact during the application process with the National Maritime Center and could cause delay or preclude issuance of a USCG mariner credential.

<b>WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE USCG RECEIVES A NON-CREDENTIALLED MARINER POSITIVE DRUG TEST?</b>
--

- |   |
|---|
| 1. USCG Sector Anchorage must notify the National Maritime Center to lock the non-credentialed mariner out of the normal USCG credential application process.   |
| 2. In addition to completing the normal application, the non-credentialed mariner must now provide proof of completion of the following:  |
| i. Enrollment in a drug rehabilitation program.   |
| ii. Successful completion of all elements of drug rehabilitation program.   |
| iii. Participate in a random, unannounced drug-testing program for a minimum period of one-year following successful completion of the drug rehabilitation program (at least 12 random drug tests spread reasonably throughout the year). |
| iv. Attend a substance abuse monitoring program (such as AA/NA) for a minimum period of one-year following successful completion of drug rehabilitation program (at least 2 meetings per month).  |
| v. Obtain and file a copy of the Medical Review Officer's letter that indicates you are drug-free and the risk of subsequent use of dangerous drugs is sufficiently low to justify return to work.  |

Questions regarding the enforcement of mariner positive drug tests should be directed to Sector Anchorage Investigation Division at (907) 428-4200, Press Option 4 (twice), or by email at [WesternAlaskaIO@uscg.mil](mailto:WesternAlaskaIO@uscg.mil).