



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
Office of Vessel Activities,
Mariner Credentialing Program Policy Division
2100 Second Street, SW, Stop 7581
Washington, DC 20593

MSIB Number: 012/13
Date: March 25, 2013
Contact: LT Ashley Holm
Phone: (202) 372-1128
E-Mail: MMCPolicy@uscg.mil

Medical Waivers for Merchant Mariner Credential Applicants With a History of Seizure Disorders

Today the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) published a *Federal Register* notice announcing that it is considering a change in policy regarding the issuance of medical waivers under 46 CFR part 10 for merchant mariner credential (MMC) applicants with a history of seizure disorders. Current USCG guidance found in Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 04-08, *Medical and Physical Evaluation Guidelines for Merchant Mariner Credentials*, provides that MMC applicants with a history of seizure disorders should contact the National Maritime Center (NMC) for guidance. However, because NVIC 04-08 does not identify waiver criteria associated with seizure disorders, it has been difficult for USCG personnel to consistently evaluate MMC applicants with a history of seizures and assess whether an individual applicant's medical condition warrants granting a medical waiver under 46 CFR 10.215(g). Accordingly, the USCG is considering whether to change its policy regarding waivers for seizure disorders, and under what criteria an MMC applicant may be eligible for waiver consideration. Prior to issuing a policy change on when waivers should be granted for seizure disorders, the USCG will accept comments from the public on whether the proposed criteria adequately address safety concerns.

The Federal Register notice and related materials may be reviewed online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number: USCG-2013-0009.

For more information on this notice, please contact LT Ashley Holm at (202) 372-1128 or MMCPolicy@uscg.mil.

-uscg-