

U.S. Coast Guard National Maritime Center
Correspondence to NTSB Human Factors Investigator
Dated January 29, 2004
Regarding meeting held at NMC January 13, 2004

Three (3) pages total including this cover



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JAN 29 2004

Mr. Barry Strauch
Assistant Director for Human Factors and Training
National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza
Washington, DC 20594

Dear Mr. Strauch:

As a result of the meeting held at the National Maritime Center on January 13, 2004, the Coast Guard was requested to provide additional information in three areas. This letter provides those responses.

You requested a copy of the personal qualification standards (PQS) for evaluators at the regional examination centers (RECs). A copy of the PQS workbook is enclosed.

You also requested to know if the computer program used to store mariners' records could provide the number of persons who had applied for mariners' credentials, but were denied for medical reasons. We have queried the computer using various search parameters to identify such applicants. All efforts were unsuccessful.

In response to your request for procedural information at the RECs, the chiefs of the RECs were queried about their policies for review of previous reports of physical examinations when an applicant applies for a credential. In general, they reported that past reports are reviewed if there is evidence on the current physical of a medical issue or if a waiver had been previously granted.

In a separate issue, Doctor Edwin Jones advised that he misspoke at the meeting and asked to clarify his statement. The following information was provided in two e-mails from Doctor Jones:

E-mail #1: When I was asked at the NTSB Inquiry about a waiver possibility for Tramadol, I was under the mistaken opinion that Tramadol was not a narcotic. Since the meeting, I have checked the PDR (Physician's Desk Reference) and realized that it is a narcotic. If possible, you may want to inform the board attendees that I was mistaken and had responded too quickly to their question. You might also add that I do refer to the PDR when a mariner is on a medication with which I am not familiar.

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E-mail #2: I also failed to mention at the NTSB that whenever I question that the mariner may be unable to do his job and respond to emergency-type situations, I ask for an on-site evaluation by putting him through various tests (going up/down ladders rapidly, carrying fire fighting equipment, pulling weighted dummies out of the water, etc.).

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact my project officer, Mr. Stewart Walker at 202-493-1022 or SWalker@Ballston.uscg.mil.

Sincerely



E. J. FINK
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Commanding Officer
U. S. C. G. National Maritime Center

Encl: REC Evaluator (FG) PQS Workbook