§ 4.07–5 Investigating officers, powers of.

(a) An investigating officer investigates each marine casualty or accident reported under §§ 4.05–1 and 4.05–10.

(b) Such investigating officer shall have the power to administer oaths, subpoena witnesses, require persons having knowledge of the subject matter of the investigation to answer questionnaires and require the production of relevant books, papers, documents and other records.

(c) Attendance of witnesses or the production of books, papers, documents or any other evidence shall be compelled by a similar process as in the United States District Court.

§ 4.07–7 Opening statement.

The investigating officer or the Chairman of a Marine Board of Investigation shall open the investigation by announcing the statutory authority for the proceeding and he shall advise parties in interest concerning their rights to be represented by counsel, to examine and cross-examine witnesses, and to call witnesses in their own behalf.


(a) At the conclusion of the investigation the investigating officer shall submit to the Commandant via the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, and the District Commander, a full and complete report of the facts as determined by his investigation, together with his opinions and recommendations in the premises. The Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, and the District Commander shall forward the investigating officer’s report to the Commandant with an endorsement stating:

1. Approval or otherwise of the findings of fact, conclusions and recommendations;

2. Any action taken with respect to the recommendations;

3. Whether or not any action has been or will be taken under part 5 of this subchapter to suspend or revoke credentials; and,

4. Whether or not violations of laws or regulations relating to vessels have been reported on Form CG-2636, report of violation of navigation laws.

(b) At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigating officer shall submit the report described in paragraph (a) of this section, to the Commandant via the Merchant Marine Detail Officer or the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, and the Commander, Coast Guard MIO Europe for a European port or Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard for an Asian or Pacific port. The Merchant Marine Detail Officer or the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, and Commander, Coast Guard MIO Europe or Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District shall forward the investigating officer’s report to the Commandant with the endorsement described in paragraphs (a) (1) through (4) of this section.

§ 4.07–15 Recommendations, action on.

Where the recommendations of an investigating officer are such that their accomplishment is within the authority of the District Commander or any of the personnel under his command, immediate steps shall be taken to put them into effect and his forwarding endorsement shall so indicate.