



TANGGAPAN NG KOMANDANTE  
(OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT)  
**PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS**  
(HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD)  
139 25th Street, Port Area  
Manila

03 June 2003

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR)

NUMBER 001-03

**PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
IN THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD**

I. AUTHORITY:

Republic Act No. 9165 (The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

II. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Memorandum Circular is to set policies in the eradication of drug-users/pushers from the Philippine Coast Guard and the conduct of Drug Test to all the uniformed and civilian personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard pursuant to paragraphs (d) and (e), Article III of Republic Act No. 9165.

III. OBJECTIVES:

To prevent drug abuse among the PCG personnel and to eradicate drug abusers and /or pushers from the Philippine Coast Guard.

To intensify the advocacy on drug abuse prevention in Government Agencies/Institutions:

To maintain good values, work ethics and efficiency among the Philippine Coast Guard personnel

To maintain good health and well-being among Philippine Coast Guard personnel;

To promote a drug-free Philippine Coast Guard

#### IV. SCOPE:

This Memorandum Circular shall apply to all uniformed and civilian personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard.

#### V. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

**Dangerous Drugs** – refers to either: “Prohibited drug” which include opium and its active components and derivatives, such as heroin and morphine; coca leaf and its derivatives, principally cocaine; alpha and beta eucaine, hallucinogenic drugs and other substances producing similar effects; Indian hemp and its derivatives; all preparations made from any of the foregoing; and other drugs and chemical preparations, whether natural or synthetic, with the physiological effects of a narcotic or a hallucinogenic drug; or “Regulated drug” which include self-inducing sedatives and any other drug which contains a salt or a derivative of a salt or a barbituric acid ; and salt, isomer or salt of an isomer, of amphetamine and any drug which produces a physiological action similar to amphetamine; and hypnotic drugs or other compound producing similar physiological effects.

**Drug dependence** – means a state of psychic or physical dependence, or both, on a dangerous drug, arising in a person following administration or use of that drug on a periodic or continuous basis.

**Pusher** – any person who sells, trades, administers, dispenses, delivers or gives away to another, on any terms whatsoever, or distributes, dispatches in transit or transports dangerous drugs or who acts as a broker in any of such transactions, in violation of RA No. 9165.

**Drug user** – a person who is a dangerous drug dependent.

**Drug Test** – a test conducted or performed to determine whether or not a person uses dangerous drugs.

**Use** – any act of injecting, intravenously or intramuscularly, of consuming, either by chewing, smoking, sniffing, eating, swallowing, drinking or otherwise introducing into the physiological system of the body, any of the dangerous drugs.

**Sell** – means the act of giving a dangerous drug, whether for money or any other material consideration.

**Recidivist** – are those who are habitual delinquent or habitual offender.

**Civilian Employees** – are non-uniformed personnel employed in the PCG service to include permanent, regular, and casual/contractual (with or without pay/pro bono).

## VI. POLICIES:

An annual Drug Test to all PCG uniformed and non-uniformed personnel shall be conducted on the date to be scheduled by the PCG headquarters in coordination with the Coast Guard Medical office;

There shall likewise be a random drug test to all PCG uniformed and civilian personnel in line with the relevant provisions of Republic Act No. 9165 to ensure a continued drug-free PCG;

Applicants for Call to Active Duty (CAD), commissioning, enlistment, re-enlistment, promotion and schooling local or abroad (for careers course/equivalent and others that may also be approved by CPCG), shall undergo drug test and shall only be considered if found negative for drug/substance abuse;

There shall be an information drive relative to drug/substance abuse to all the PCG units including the adverse effects as well as their legal and economic implications to discourage use of prohibited drugs;

There shall be an intensified monitoring and evaluation of every PCG personnel;

Personnel who submitted themselves for voluntary drug test and who are found to be positive, shall be recommended for rehabilitation for a minimum period of six (6) months in a rehabilitation center duly accredited by DOH;

Unit Commanders/Heads of office shall be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of their personnel and shall submit incident reports on drug related cases in his unit.

Annual and random drug testing in all the PCG units whether it be in the area or at the headquarters shall be scheduled by the Headquarters at its discretion but in accordance with the purpose and objectives of this circular;

Priority in the conduct of tests among the PCG personnel shall be determined by the Heads of offices;

The PCG Medical Team shall be the primary unit responsible for the conduct of the said activity with CGIIF providing assistance;

Unit Commanders/Heads of office can request for the conduct of drug test in their respective units;

The Headquarters shall provide the Coast Guard Medical with basic technological equipment and materials needed for the tests, as well as the necessary funds for attendant travel.

## VII. PROCEDURES:

Unit Commanders/Heads of office who received an information that a personnel in his unit/office is allegedly using prohibited drugs, may request the Headquarters PCG thru a confidential memorandum to CPCG for the conduct of drug test in his unit/office to verify or validate the said information;

The Headquarters upon receipt of the request shall direct the Coast Guard Medical Office to compose a team that will conduct the said test that will include CGIIF representatives;

Result of the tests conducted shall be forwarded by the Head, Medical Office who shall transmit evidence from those found positive to the appropriate agency for the required confirmation;

The Head, Medical Office shall transmit to the Commandant, PCG the results of drug tests conducted and confirmation thereto made by the appropriate agency.

## VIII. PENALTIES:

### On Officers:

PCG Officers found positive of drug substance use/abuse upon the conduct of annual or random drug test shall be recommended for separation through the Efficiency and Separation Board (ESB);

PCG Officers found to be involved in selling/dealing prohibited drugs shall be recommended for separation through the ESB without prejudice to the filing of criminal action before regular courts;

PCG Medical Officer found to have issued fraudulent result willfully shall be recommended for separation through the ESB and shall be recommended for the revocation of his/her medical license. Similar actions shall be done to any of the members of the Drug Test Team or to any officer/personnel found party to such issuance of fraudulent drug test results;

PCG Officers found to be in connivance with the civilian and/or enlisted personnel in using, selling/dealing prohibited drugs shall be recommended for separation through the ESB without prejudice to the filing of criminal action before regular courts;

PCG Officers found to have concealed the illegal drug activities of his personnel or have acted to prevent proper actions on erring officers/personnel shall be recommended for separation through the ESB.

On Enlisted Personnel:

Enlisted personnel found positive of drug substance upon the conduct of drug test shall be dismissed/discharged from the PCG service;

Enlisted personnel found to be involved in selling/dealing prohibited drugs shall be dismissed/discharged from the PCG service without prejudice to the filing of criminal action before regular courts;

Enlisted personnel found to be in connivance with PCG Officers and /or civilian personnel in using, selling/dealing prohibited drugs shall be dismissed/discharged from the PCG service without prejudice to the filing of criminal action before regular courts;

Enlisted personnel who are members of Drug Test Team and any other enlisted personnel found party to the issuance of fraudulent results shall be dismissed/discharged from the PCG service;

On Civilian Personnel:

Civilian personnel found to be positive of drug substance upon the conduct of drug test shall be recommended for dismissal from the service with the Civil Service Commission;

Civilian personnel found to be involved in selling/dealing of prohibited drugs shall likewise be recommended for dismissal with the Civil Service Commission without prejudice to the filing of criminal action before regular courts;

Civilian personnel found to be in connivance with any of the PCG uniformed personnel in using, selling/dealing of prohibited drugs shall be recommended for dismissal with the Civil Service Commission without prejudice to the filing of criminal action before regular courts;

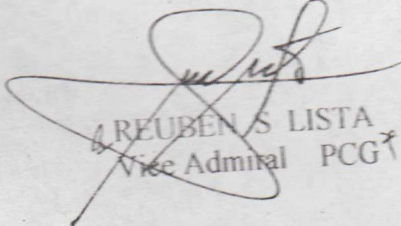
Civilian personnel who are members of the Drug Test Team found party to any issuance of fraudulent drug test results shall be recommended for dismissal with the Civil Service Commission;

PROVIDED THAT:

Those who have been recommended for rehabilitation whether an officer, enlisted personnel or civilian employee, who were later found again to have been using prohibited drugs or have tested positive again (recidivist) shall be recommended for dismissal from the service.

IX. EFFECTIVITY:

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect upon publication.



REUBEN S LISTA  
Vice Admiral PCG\*