

BERMUDA

MERCHANT SHIPPING (MEDICAL CERTIFICATION OF SEAFARERS) REGULATIONS 2013

BR 122 / 2013

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The Minister responsible for Maritime Administration, in exercise of the power conferred by sections 3 and 59(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act 2002, makes the following Regulations—

Citation

1 These Regulations may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Medical Certification for Seafarers) Regulations 2013.

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Interpretation

- 2 In these Regulations—
 - "Bermuda ship" means a ship which is a Bermuda ship within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Act;
 - "commercial activity" means any employment of the vessel for which a contract or charter party is in force and includes the carriage of any cargo or persons for reward:
 - "ENG1 certificate" means a UK seafarer's medical certificate issued by a medical practitioner approved by the Government of the UK to issue medical fitness certificates for seafarers:
 - "immediate family" means in relation to an individual, the husband or wife of the individual and a relative of the individual or the individual's husband or wife;
 - "Maritime Labour Certificate" means the certificate issued in accordance with Title 5 of the Maritime Labour Convention:
 - "Maritime Labour Convention" means the Maritime Labour Convention 2006, adopted at a general conference of the International Labour Organization in Geneva on 7 February 2006;
 - "medical fitness certificate" means a certificate issued in accordance with these regulations or issued in accordance with Regulation 1/9 of the STCW Convention:
 - "Medical Referee" means a qualified medical practitioner not party to the matter being considered;
 - "pleasure vessel" means-
 - (a) a vessel which at the time it is being used is:
 - (i) in the case of a vessel wholly owned by an individual or individuals, used only for the sport or pleasure of the owner or immediate family or friends of the owner; or in the case of a vessel owned by a body corporate, used only for sport or pleasure and on which the passengers are employees or officers of the body corporate, or their immediate family or friends;
 - (ii) on a voyage or excursion which is one for which the owner does not receive money for or in connection with operating the vessel or carrying any person, other than as a contribution to the direct expenses of the operation of the vessel incurred during the voyage or excursion; and
 - (iii) and no other payments are made by or on behalf of the users of the vessel other than by the owner; or
 - (b) any vessel wholly owned by or on behalf of a member's club formed for the purpose of sport or pleasure which, at the time it is being used, is used only for the sport or pleasure of members of that club or their immediate

family; and for the use of which any charges levied are paid into club funds for the general use of the club; and no other payments are made by or on behalf of users of the vessel other than by the owner;

"relative" means brother, sister, ancestor or lineal descendant;

- "seafarer" means any person, including a master, who is employed or engaged or works in any capacity on board a ship, on the business of the ship and where there is doubt as to whether a person working or engaged on a ship is a seafarer and subject to these regulations the Minister shall make a determination and in doing so he shall be guided by the advice and guidance provided by the International Labour Organization;
- "shipowner" means the owner of a ship or another organisation or person such as the manager, agent or bareboat charterer who has assumed the responsibility for the operation of the ship from the owner;
- "STCW Convention" means the International Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping 1978 as amended in 1995 made by the International Maritime Organization and includes any later amendments to that Convention.

[Regulation 2 "Medical Referee" inserted by BR 57 / 2014 reg. 2 effective 30 June 2014]

Application

- 3 These Regulations apply—
 - (a) to Bermuda ships wherever they may be other than—
 - (i) fishing vessels:
 - (ii) vessels owned and operated by a government department or agency for non-commercial purposes; or
 - (iii) pleasure vessels in which no seafarers are employed.
 - (b) to the extent specified in regulation 9 other than ships that are not Bermuda ships when in port in Bermuda other than—
 - (i) fishing vessels;
 - (ii) pleasure vessels; or
 - (iii) warships, naval auxiliaries and other ships owned or operated by a state and not engaged on commercial activity.

Requirement for a seafarer's medical certificate

4 (1) In every ship to which these regulations apply the shipowner shall ensure that every seafarer holds a valid medical fitness certificate before the seafarer is employed on board.

- (2) It shall be the duty of the master of every ship to which these regulations apply to ensure that every seafarer on commencing employment on board has a valid medical fitness certificate.
- (3) A seafarer whose medical fitness certificate expires during this employment and while he is in a location where it is impracticable to obtain a new medical fitness certificate may continue to be employed after the date of expiry of his certificate until the ship's arrival at a port where a new medical certificate can be obtained but the period when the seafarer is employed without a valid medical fitness certificate shall not exceed three months from the date of expiry of such medical fitness certificate.
- (4) A medical fitness certificate shall cease to be valid if the seafarer holding it is employed in a capacity or in a geographical area precluded by any restriction stated in that seafarer's medical fitness certificate.

Validity of a medical fitness certificate

- 5 (1) Every medical fitness certificate shall specify the period for which it is to remain valid and the period of validity shall in no circumstances exceed—
 - (a) one year in the case of seafarers under the age of 18; or
 - (b) two years in the case of seafarers over the age of 18.
- (2) Every medical fitness certificate shall be written in English but may include a translation into the language of the issuing country.

Issue of a medical fitness certificate

- 6 (1) Every medical fitness certificate shall be issued by—
 - (a) a qualified medical practitioner in a country which is approved by the Minister and listed in a Bermuda Shipping Notice and who is authorised by that country to issue such certificates, and is listed in the register of recognised medical practitioners maintained by that country;
 - (b) a qualified medical practitioner authorised by the Minister for the purpose of issuing seafarer's medical certificates; or
 - (c) a qualified medical practitioner authorised by the UK to issue ENG1 certificates in accordance with the United Kingdom requirements for such certificates.
 - (2) Every medical fitness certificate shall include a statement that—
 - (a) the hearing and eyesight of a the seafarer is satisfactory;
 - (b) the colour vision of the seafarer concerned in the case of seafarers employed in navigational watchkeeping roles and in engineering watchkeeping roles where the ability to discern colours is essential to their fitness for the role is satisfactory; and

- (c) the seafarer is not suffering from any medical condition likely to be aggravated by service at sea or to render the seafarer unfit for such service or to endanger the health of other persons on board.
- (3) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (2) each medical certificate shall include the minimum information set out in section A-I/9 of the STCW Convention.
- (4) Every medical fitness certificate issued shall be valid for a maximum period of— $\,$
 - (a) two years for seafarers above the age of 18 years; or
 - (b) one year for seafarers below the age of 18 years.

Standard of medical fitness

- 7 (1) Every examination for the issue of a medical fitness certificate shall follow the "Guidelines on the medical examination of seafarers (ILO/IMO/JMS/2011/2012)" jointly published by the International Labour Organization and the International Maritime Organization, published in 2013.
- (2) Seafarers shall only be issued with a medical fitness certificate when they are found to be able to meet the minimum in-service eyesight standards for seafarers set out in section A-I/9-1 and Table A-I/9 of the STCW Convention and the fitness standards described in section A-I/9-2 of the STCW Convention.
- (3) A medical fitness certificate, issued following the satisfactory completion of the medical examination required under subsection (1), shall be in the format as set out in the Schedule ("Government of Bermuda Department of Maritime Administration Seafarer Medical Fitness Certificate").

[Regulation 7 paragraph (1) amended by BR 57 / 2014 reg. 3 effective 30 June 2014]

Suspension and cancellation of medical fitness certificate

- 7A (1) This regulation applies if a medical practitioner who has been authorised by the Minister to issue a medical fitness certificate in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b) has reasonable grounds for believing that—
 - (a) there has been a significant change in the medical fitness of a seafarer during the period of validity of that seafarer's medical fitness certificate;
 - (b) a seafarer is not complying with the terms of a condition to which that seafarer's medical fitness certificate is subject;
 - (c) when a medical fitness certificate was issued to a seafarer, had a medical practitioner been in possession of full details of that seafarer's condition, the medical practitioner could not reasonably have considered that the seafarer was fit, having regard to the medical standards specified in ILO/ IMO Guidelines for Medical Certificate for Service at Sea: or
 - (d) a medical fitness certificate was issued to a seafarer otherwise than in accordance with these Regulations.

- (2) If this regulation applies, the medical practitioner may—
 - (a) suspend the validity of that medical fitness certificate until the seafarer to whom the certificate was issued has undergone further medical examination;
 - (b) suspend the validity of the medical fitness certificate for such period as the medical practitioner considers the seafarer to whom the certificate was issued will remain unfit to perform the duties that that seafarer will carry out at sea; or
 - (c) cancel the certificate if the medical practitioner considers that the seafarer to whom the certificate was issued is likely to remain permanently unfit to perform the duties that that seafarer will carry out at sea,

and must notify the seafarer concerned accordingly.

- (3) The medical practitioner may require that a seafarer surrender a medical fitness certificate which has been issued to that seafarer and which has been suspended or cancelled pursuant to paragraph (2), as that practitioner directs.
- (4) In this regulation, "a significant change in the medical fitness of a seafarer" means a condition which affects or would be reasonably likely to affect that seafarer's ability to carry out their duties, including their ability to undertake emergency duties.

[Regulation 7A inserted by BR 57 / 2014 reg. 4 effective 30 June 2014]

Review of a medical practitioner's decision

- 7B (1) A seafarer who is aggrieved by—
 - (a) the refusal of a medical practitioner, who has been so authorised by the Minister, to issue a medical fitness certificate in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b);
 - (b) any restriction imposed on such a certificate; or
 - (c) the suspension for a period of more than three months or cancellation of such a certificate by a medical practitioner, pursuant to regulation 7A,

may apply to the Minister for the matter to be reviewed by a single medical referee appointed by the Minister.

- (2) The appointed medical referee will review the medical information from the authorised medical practitioner and the application form from the seafarer.
- (3) The cost of the review, and of any additional specialist reports required by the medical referee in order to make a decision, shall be met by the company sponsoring the authorised medical practitioner.
 - (4) The Minister must have the matter reviewed if the application—
 - (a) was lodged with the Minister within one month of the date on which the applicant was given notice of the—

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- (i) refusal;
- (ii) imposition of restriction;
- (iii) suspension; or
- (iv) cancellation;
- (b) includes consent for the medical practitioner responsible for the—
 - (i) refusal;
 - (ii) imposition of restriction;
 - (iii) suspension; or
 - (iv) cancellation,

to provide a report to the medical referee; and

- (c) specifies the name and address of that practitioner.
- (5) If an application is made after the time prescribed in paragraph (4)(a) the Minister, upon consideration of any reasons for the lateness of the application, may decide that the matter is nonetheless to be reviewed.
- (6) If requested by the applicant, the medical practitioner must send to the applicant a copy of the report of the medical practitioner and any other evidence provided by the medical practitioner to the medical referee.
- (7) In a case within paragraph (1)(a) or (c), if in the light of the medical evidence, and having regard to the medical standards specified by the Minister in ILO/IMO Guidelines for Medical Certificate for Service at Sea, the medical referee considers that the person is fit to perform the duties that they will carry out at sea, the medical referee must issue to the applicant a medical fitness certificate in the form specified in the ILO/IMO Guidelines for Medical Certificate for Service at Sea, or terminate the suspension or cancellation of the applicant's medical fitness certificate, as the case may be.
- (8) In a case within paragraph (1)(b), and having regard to the medical standards specified in ILO/IMO Guidelines for Medical Certificate for Service at Sea, if in light of the medical evidence the medical referee considers that restrictions as to capacity of sea service or geographical areas should be imposed on a certificate issued to the applicant, or that any restriction so imposed by a medical practitioner should be deleted or varied, the medical referee must issue to the applicant a medical fitness certificate in the form approved by the Minister which records any restrictions so imposed or varied, and the former certificate shall cease to have effect.
- (9) If, in light of the medical evidence, and having regard to the medical standards specified in ILO/IMO Guidelines for Medical Certificate for Service at Sea, the medical referee considers that the applicant is unfit to perform the duties that person will carry out at sea, the medical referee must notify the applicant of the period during which the medical referee considers that the applicant will remain unfit to go to sea.

(10) If the applicant fails to attend an appointment with the medical referee without giving adequate notice, then the Minister may recover from the applicant as a civil debt the cost incurred by the Minister of that appointment.

[Regulation 7B inserted by BR 57 / 2014 reg. 4 effective 30 June 2014]

Review of a medical practitioner's decision

- (1) A person who is aggrieved due to a medical practitioner's decision—
 - (a) to refuse to issue a medical certificate, in accordance with regulation 6;
 - (b) to impose any restriction by way of a medical certificate; or
 - (c) to impose a period of suspension for a period of more than three months;
 - (d) to cancel a medical certificate pursuant to any medical examination or medical reason.

may apply in writing to the Minister for a review of the medical practitioner's decision.

- (2) In accordance with sub-section (1)the Minister shall, within two months of receiving the person's written application, notify the person in writing of the result of his reconsideration.
- (3) In accordance with subsection (1), the review shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure contained in Bermuda Merchant Shipping (Medical Certification of Seafarers Notice) 2013.

Penalties

- 9 (1) A shipowner who contravenes regulation 4(1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.
- (2) A master who contravenes regulation 4(2) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.
- (3) Any person, including a seafarer, who falsifies a medical fitness certificate, or a seafarer who makes a false declaration to obtain a medical fitness certificate, or who intentionally hides a medical condition which affects his medical fitness certificate, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.
- (4) It shall be a defence for a person charged under this regulation to show that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.

Inspection

10 (1) Any person duly authorised by the Minister may inspect any ship to which these regulations apply when in port in Bermuda, and if he is satisfied that the arrangements for medical certification are not in accordance with the requirements stated in the declaration part 1 to the ship's Maritime Labour Certificate or that they do not comply with the requirements of the Maritime Labour Convention, in the case of a ship which is

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not issued with a Maritime Labour Certificate, he may detain the ship, but shall not in the exercise of these powers detain or delay the ship unreasonably.

- (2) Any authorised officer of the Department of Maritime Administration who discovers that a Bermuda ship does not comply with these regulations may—
 - (a) withdraw the ship's Maritime Labour Certificate pending rectification of the deficiency; or
 - (b) if the ship is in a port outside Bermuda, inform the port state control authorities for that port of the deficiency.

Revocation

11 The Merchant Shipping (Medical Examination) Regulations 1986 are hereby revoked.

Commencement

12 These Regulations shall come into operation on the same date on which the Merchant Shipping (ILO) Amendment Act 2012 comes into operation.

SCHEDULE

(Regulation 5)

GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA DEPARTMENT OF MARITIME ADMINISTRATION SEAFARER MEDICAL FITNESS CERTIFICATE											
Authorised by the Department of Maritime Administration, Government of Bermuda, issued under the Provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seamen, 1978 as amended, The Maritime Labour Convention 2006, and Bermuda Merchant Shipping (Medical Certification of Seafarers) Regulations 2013.											
2.0	Seafarer Information										
2.1	Family Name		2.1.1	2.1.1 First / Middle Name							
	Enter Family N			Enter First / Middle Name							
2.2	Date of Birth:		2.3	Gende	nder: Male Female Seafarer's						
2.4	Nationality:	Enter nationality	Enter nationality Photograph								
2.4.	Passport or Se	afarer's Book Number:	Enter Passport or SB Name								
2.5	Department:					Rank	1		_		
2.5		nine/Catering/Other)	Enter De	nartmer	nt	/Job:	Enter	Rank/Job			
3.0		the recognised Medical Pract				et are as	per ST	CW Code	Sction A-1/9)		
3.1	Seafarers Doc	umentation checked at point	of examina	tion	Yes		No		<u> </u>		
3.2	Hearing satisfa			Yes		No					
3.3	Unaided Heari	ng satisfactory			Yes		No				
3.4	Visual Acuity s	atisfactory			Yes		No				
3.5	Satisfactory Co			Yes		No					
3.6		Duties (Deck & Engine Only)			Yes		No				
		(if worn specify which type		tacles			quired to carry an additional pair of				
3.7		and for what purpose) Contact Lenses spetacles Medical Fitness Category									
3.1		Restrictions or Limitations, Fi	ull Duration	. Yes I	□ No	$\overline{}$					
		ject to Restrictions and/or Lin				ш					
	++Restricted D			,			Enter	Response	9		
	++Restricted to	++Restricted to Ship Type/Geographical area/Other:									
		IST NOT contain any clinical i						Response			
3.8		s free from any medical condi	ition likely t				a servic	e or to en	danger the		
3.9		persons on board.		Yes No Service Between Francisco de la							
3.9		amination Date: Enter Date: 3.10 Certificate Expiry Date: Enter expiry date onfirm that the abovenamed seafarer was examined by me and found to be fit for sea service as stated in									
	Sections 3.7 and 3.8 above.										
4.0		tioner	Enter Response Full Name (Print of duly authorised Medical Practitioner								
4.0		nature of duly authorised Medical Practioner Medical Practioner's Offical Stamp Medical Practioner's Conta									
		A					Address: Enter Address				
			Phone:			Enter Phone Number					
5.0	Email: Enter E-Mail Seafarers Declaration – I have been informed by the medical practioner of the content of the medical certificate and of the right to a										
5.0	review in accordance with paragraph 6 of section A-1/9 of the STCW Code in relation to medical fitness standards or any limitations or restrictions imposed on my ability to work. (see overleaf for review procedure)										
	Seafarer's Sign	nature:					Serial Number: Enter Serial Number				
	*All Certificates are valid for a Maximumof Two (2) Years from the Examination Date or One (1) Year if the seafarer is under 18 years of age										
	Colour vision test are valud for Six (6) Years										
	THE ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE SHOULD BE ISSUED TO THE SEAFARER										

6.0 Review Procedure

Medical Certificate Review Procedure

All seafarers who have been refused a medical certificate or have had a limitation imposed on their ability to work must be given the opportunity to have a further examination by an independent medical practioner or by an independent medical referee.

A seafarer whose medical fitness certificate is suspended for more than three months or cancelled has the right of review of that suspension or cancellation. All such seafarers will have been given a Form 6 or Form 7 with the details of the procedure and the application form.

The examining medical practitioner should advise the seafarer as regards to the procedure for medical review, in accordance with paragraph 6 of section A-1/9 of the STCW Code in relation to medical fitness standards or any limitations or restrictions imposed on his ability to work.

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[Schedule inserted by BR 57 / 2014 reg. 5 effective 30 June 2014]
Made this 20th day of December 2013
Minister of Tourism Development and Transport
[Amended by: BR 57 / 2014]