	MARITIME AUTHORITY OF JAMAICA GUIDELINES ON THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF SEAFARERS	Circular No.	16-11-02	P
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TO:

- (I) SHIP AGENTS**
 - (II) MASTERS, OWNERS/OPERATORS OF JAMAICAN REGISTERED VESSELS**
 - (III) MAJ APPROVED MEDICAL DOCTORS**
-

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES ON THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF SEAFARERS

References:

Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, MLC-2006, Regulation-1.2, The Shipping Act, 1998, The Shipping (Medical Examination) Regulations, 1998, The Shipping (Medical Examination) (Amendment) Regulations, 2015, STCW Convention and Code 1978 as amended- Regulation I/9, Section A-I/9 and Section B-I/9, IMO Circular STCW.7/Circ.19-Guidelines on the Medical Examination of Seafarers

Introduction:

The International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted the Medical Examination of Young Persons (Sea) Convention, 1921 (No.16), as one of the first Conventions. This was followed by the Medical Examination (Seafarers) Convention, 1946 (No. 73). These instruments have now been consolidated into the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006).

The International Maritime Organization's (IMO) International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended, states that every seafarer holding a certificate issued under the provisions of the Convention, who is serving at sea, shall also hold a valid medical certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of regulation I/9 and of section A-I/9 of the STCW Code.

The 2010 Manila amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping of Seafarers, 1978 (STCW Convention) and STCW Code came into force on the 1 Jan 2012. The amendments included revision of standards of medical fitness for seafarers.

Jamaica is party to the STCW convention and a medical fitness certificate issued in accordance with the requirements of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended, also meets the requirements of the MLC, 2006.

Definitions:

“Approved Medical Practitioner” means a registered medical practitioner approved by the Authority (Maritime Authority of Jamaica) under these regulations, (The Shipping (Medical Examination) Regulations) to conduct assessments of candidates for the issue or revalidation of medical fitness certificate for service on board Jamaican Ships.

“Medical fitness certificate” or “Medical certificate” means any certificate of medical and visual fitness for seafaring employment issued by an approved/ recognized medical practitioner to a seafarer in respect of a medical examination conducted before the appointed day.

Guidelines for the medical assessment and fitness of a seafarer:

The Shipping (Medical Examination) Regulations, 1998 and the Shipping (Medical Examination) (Amendment) Regulations 2015, provides the necessary national information needed for a medical assessment and the medical fitness certificate to be issued to seafarers.

The IMO circular STCW.07/ Circ.19 dated 9 January 2013 provides Guidelines on the medical examination of seafarers. and can be accessed on the IMO website.

Recognition of Medical Practitioner:

Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) will accept valid medical certificate issued to seafarers by the following medical practitioners:

- a. Registered medical practitioners approved by MAJ. The list of MAJ approved medical practitioners in Jamaica is available on the website www.jamaicaships.com; or
- b. A medical practitioner recognized by a STCW State Party on the “STCW White List” (see IMO document MSC.1/Circ.1163/Rev.4 dated 8 June 2009, as updated from time to time); or
- c. Any other medical practitioner whose medical qualifications are accepted by the Director (MAJ).

Validity of Medical Fitness Certificate:

The period of validity of the medical fitness certificate commencing with the date of the medical examination shall be a maximum period of two years in respect of seafarers 18 years of age and one year in respect of seafarers/apprentice under 18 years of age.

NB: No seafarer shall be employed on a Jamaican ship under 16 years of age.

If the period of validity of a medical fitness certificate expires while the seafarer is at sea, the medical fitness certificate shall continue to be valid until the next port of call where an approved/recognized medical practitioner is available, but in any event the medical certificate shall not continue to be valid for more than three months.

In urgent cases, the Authority (MAJ) may permit a seafarer to work on board a Jamaican ship without a valid medical fitness certificate until the next port of call where an approved/recognized medical practitioner is available, provided that-

- The period of such permission does not exceed three months; and
- The seafarer concerned is in possession of an expired medical fitness certificate of a recent date.

Shipping companies are required in this regard to submit to the Authority (MAJ) an application for the issue of an authorization allowing a seafarer with an expired medical certificate to serve, citing the conditions under which the request is being made.

The medical certificate is neither a certificate of general health nor a certification of the absence of illness. It is a confirmation that the seafarer is expected to be able to meet the minimum requirements for performing the routine and emergency duties specific to their post at sea safely and effectively during the period of validity of the medical certificate.

Ship managers and masters should ensure that seafarers are only deployed to perform duties for which they are medically fit. For example, only seafarers who are fit for the deck department - (i.e. comply with requirements for eye-sight, colour vision and hearing) should be permitted to do bridge watch keeping or lookout duties.

Seafarer "Medical fitness certificate" will be issued by the Maritime Authority of Jamaica Approved Doctors and a sample Seafarer Medical fitness certificate is annexed with this circular.

The "Application for Medical Examinations of Seafarer"- form CDFM-38 can be accessed from the [JSR website](#)

The IMO circular STCW.07/ Circ.19 dated 9 January 2013 provides Guidelines on the medical examination of seafarers can be accessed on the [IMO website](#)

Any further queries regarding this circular can be addressed to the Administration at the numbers and email listed below.

November 10, 2016

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MARITIME AUTHORITY OF JAMAICA MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

This Certificate is issued by the **Government of Jamaica** in accordance with the requirements of the Shipping (Medical Examination) Regulations 1998 as amended and (Section A-I/9) Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.



SEAFARERS INFORMATION

JM: 182 773 - 000 000

Last Name		First Name		Middle Initial
Date of Birth: (DDMMYYYY)		Place of Birth: (city & country)		Nationality
				Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male
Mailing Address of Applicant				

Department: Deck: Engine: Catering: Others (Specify): _____

DECLARATION OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

I _____, the undersigned Medical Practitioner
Last name First Name
 of _____ license number _____
Address of Medical Practitioner

declare that on the _____ day of _____ 20 _____

Name of Seafarer

presented before me for the conduct of a seafarer medical assessment pursuant to Regulation I/9 of the STCW Convention as amended and the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 and that the identity of the seafarer was verified from the Passport No _____

I further declare that the findings of the medical examination were that the seafarer's:

1. Hearing meets the standards of section A-I/9 of STCW convention : Yes No
2. Unaided hearing satisfactory: Yes No
3. Visual acuity meets the standards in section A -I/9 of the STCW convention : Yes No
4. Colour vision meets the standards of section A-I/9 of the STCW convention : Yes No
- (i) Date of Last colour vision test: _____
(dd/mm/yyyy)
5. The seafarer is free 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: Yes No
6. Is fit for look-out duties: Yes No

I hereby certify that the seafarer is fit for seafaring subject to the following limitations or restrictions

Please specify: _____

This certificate will expire on the _____

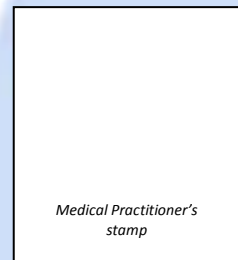
Signature of Physician: _____

SEAFARER CONFIRMATION

I have read and understand the information contained on this certificate.

Signature of seafarer: _____

Date: (dd/mm/yyyy). _____



GENERAL NOTES:

This Certificate is issued in accordance with the Shipping (Medical Examination) Regulations, 1998 as amended and Section A-I/9 of STCW Convention 1978 as amended, by a Medical Practitioner approved by the Maritime Authority of Jamaica.

NOTES TO SEAFARERS

1. This Medical Certificate belongs solely to the seafarer identified overleaf.
2. This Certificate may have a validity of up to two (2) years from the date of the examination. A lesser period of validity may be issued subject to the examining physician's findings.
3. A Seafarer, who signs this Certificate, confirms that he/she read, understood and agreed to the information contained therein.
4. Any change to the medical fitness of the seafarer while being the holder of this Certificate should be reported to a medical practitioner approved by the Maritime Authority of Jamaica or an administration whose government is party to the STCW 1978 Convention as amended, and a New Certificate issued reflecting such changes accordingly.
5. It is an offence to tamper with, falsify or alter any information contained in this Certificate in any way and may lead to prosecution or other applicable sanctions.
6. Colour vision assessment only needs to be conducted every six (6) years.
7. If found, please return to the Maritime Authority of Jamaica.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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