

LEGAL NOTICE No. 80

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THE SHIPPING ACT, 1987

REGULATIONS

MADE BY THE MINISTER UNDER SECTION 146 OF THE SHIPPING ACT, 1987

THE SHIPPING (MEDICAL EXAMINATION) (AMENDMENT)
REGULATIONS, 2002

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Shipping (Medical Examination) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002. Citation

2. The Shipping (Medical Examination) Regulations is amended as follows: Legal Notice
No. 2 of 1991
amended

(a) in regulation 2, by inserting in the appropriate alphabetical sequence—

“restricted service” means that the employment of a seafarer is restricted to certain shipping trades, geographical areas and types of ship or job, for such period of time as may be stipulated by an approved medical practitioner;”;

(b) by revoking regulation 5 and substituting the following regulations:

“Issue of
medical
fitness
certificate

5. (1) An applicant for a medical fitness certificate shall be examined by an approved medical practitioner.

First
Schedule

(2) An approved medical practitioner who examines an applicant and determines that the applicant is fit, having regard to the medical and visual standards in the First Schedule, shall issue to the applicant, a medical fitness certificate on the form set out in the Second Schedule.

Second
Schedule

(3) An approved medical practitioner who examines an applicant and determines that—

(a) although the applicant is fit, restrictions should be imposed on his service at sea; or

(b) the applicant is not fit having regard to medical and visual standards, shall give to the applicant, notice of the restrictions or unfitness on the form set out in the Third Schedule.

Medical examination

5A. (1) A seafarer who—

(a) has not yet attained eighteen years of age, shall have an annual medical examination;

(b) has attained eighteen years of age, shall have a medical examination at intervals not exceeding two years; and

(c) serves on a bulk chemical carrier, shall have a medical examination, which may include blood tests, annually or at more frequent intervals, according to the nature of the cargo.

(2) A seafarer shall produce a form of personal identification to an approved medical practitioner before a medical examination.

(3) A seafarer who has previously been issued with a medical fitness certificate—

(a) by another approved medical practitioner;

(b) after an appeal to a medical referee; or

(c) indicating that he has failed a medical examination,

shall so inform the approved medical practitioner before a medical examination.

Approved medical practitioner may consult

5B. (1) An approved medical practitioner may, with the written consent of a seafarer, consult with the seafarer's medical practitioner.

(2) Where an approved medical practitioner finds it necessary to consult with other medical practitioners, the medical ethical standards shall apply, but the approved medical practitioner alone, shall decide the question of the

fitness of a seafarer, in accordance with the medical and visual standards, subject to the right of appeal under regulation 10.”;

(c) by revoking regulation 8 and substituting the following regulation:

“Period of validity of certificate”
 8. (1) Subject to subregulation (2), an approved medical practitioner who issues a medical fitness certificate under regulation 5, shall specify on the certificate, the period of validity of the certificate.

(2) The period of validity of the certificate shall be from the date of the medical examination and shall not exceed—

(a) in the case of a seafarer who has not yet attained eighteen years of age, one year; and

(b) in the case of a seafarer who has attained eighteen years of age, two years.”;

(d) in regulation 9, by deleting the word “Fifth” and substituting the word “Third”;

(e) by inserting after regulation 9, the following regulation:

“Seafarer with certificate to be examined in case of illness”
 9A. (1) A seafarer who holds a valid medical fitness certificate and suffers a condition set out in the First Schedule, shall be examined by an approved medical practitioner as soon as practicable after diagnosis.

(2) Upon a medical examination under subregulation (1), the approved medical practitioner shall revise the medical fitness certificate of the seafarer.”;

(f) in regulation 10—

(i) in subregulation (5)—

(A) in paragraph (b), by deleting the words “referee; and” and substituting the words “referee.”; and

(B) by deleting paragraph (c); and

(ii) by revoking subregulation (8) and substituting the following subregulation:

“(8) The medical referee shall have regard to any relevant medical evidence, whether produced by the applicant, his employer, the Maritime Services Division or by any other means notwithstanding subregulation (7), and shall—

- (a) determine whether the diagnosis has been established beyond reasonable doubt, in accordance with the medical evidence on which the approved medical practitioner reached his decision and, normally with the assistance of a report from a consultant in the appropriate specialty;
- (b) determine whether the medical and visual standards have been properly interpreted;
- (c) consider the possibility of a seafarer, previously declared permanently unfit, returning to sea; and
- (d) where a case is not covered by the medical and visual standards or in cases of category E where exceptional medical considerations apply, decide an appropriate classification, after consultation with the approved medical practitioner and consideration of the evidence.”;

(g) in regulation 11—

- (i) by deleting paragraph (a) and substituting the following paragraph:

Fourth
Schedule

“(a) keep full clinical notes and make a record on the form set out in the Fourth Schedule, of the medical examination and shall retain the notes and the record for a period of six years from the date of the examination.”;

- (ii) in paragraph (b), by deleting the word “Seventh” and substituting the word “Fifth”;

(h) by repealing the First, Second, Third and Fourth Schedules and substituting the following Schedules:

“FIRST SCHEDULE

[Regulation 5(2)]

MEDICAL AND VISUAL STANDARDS

PART A

General

1. (1) An approved medical practitioner shall, when examining a seafarer— General principles
- (a) interpret widely the medical and visual standards; and
 - (b) have regard to the occupational circumstances which apply at sea and in particular—
 - (i) the potentially hazardous nature of seafaring, which requires a high standard of health and continuing fitness;
 - (ii) that medical facilities on board a ship may be inadequate, as few ships carry medical practitioners and medical supplies are limited;
 - (iii) that there may be a delay before full medical treatment is available;
 - (iv) the possible difficulty of providing or replacing required medication;
 - (v) the confined nature of life on board a ship and the ability of a seafarer to live and work in a closed community;
 - (vi) that the illness of a seafarer may place a burden on others or impair the safe and efficient working of a ship especially where there is a limited crew complement; and
 - (vii) the potential need for seafarers to participate in an emergency drill, which may involve strenuous activity in adverse conditions.
- (2) An approved medical practitioner, before issuing a medical fitness certificate, shall be satisfied that, the seafarer—
- (a) does not suffer from a disease, defect or condition which may be aggravated by working at sea or represent an unacceptable risk to the health of the seafarer, other seafarers or the safety of the ship; and
 - (b) is not pursuing a course of treatment which may cause adverse side effects at sea.
- (3) A seafarer shall not be allowed sea service where he suffers from a condition which—
- (a) precludes air travel, including pneumothorax and a condition which predisposes to barotrauma; or
 - (b) carries the possibility of serious exacerbation requiring expert treatment.
- (4) Where medication is acceptable for a seafarer, the seafarer shall, with the agreement of the master, arrange for a reserve stock of the prescribed medication to be held in a safe place.
- (5) As a general rule, a seafarer shall not be allowed to serve at sea where the loss of medicine may precipitate the rapid deterioration of a condition.
2. (1) Where a seafarer satisfies the medical and visual standards, the approved medical practitioner, may assess the seafarer as fit and, shall classify him as— Classification in accordance with medical and visual standards
- (a) category A for unrestricted service at sea;

- (b) category A(T) where the seafarer is considered fit for all shipping trades, geographical areas, types of ship or job but medical surveillance is required at intervals; and
- (c) category B for restricted service at sea.

(2) Where a seafarer does not satisfy the medical and visual standards, the approved medical practitioner shall assess the seafarer as not fit and classify him as;

- (a) category C for a temporary restriction from service at sea;
- (b) category D for an indefinite restriction from service at sea; and
- (c) category E for permanent restriction from service at sea.

(3) Where a seafarer is classified as category A(T), the approved medical practitioner shall validate the medical certificate only for the appropriate period which shall take into account the expected duration of the tour of duty.

(4) Where a seafarer is classified as:

- (a) category C, his application may be reviewed after two weeks; and
- (b) category D, his application may be reviewed after one month.

(5) The employer of a seafarer, or the person authorised by the employer to act on his behalf, shall ensure that the category recommended by the approved medical practitioner is taken fully into account when the engagement or the continued employment of a seafarer is under consideration.

Restricted
service

3. (1) Where a seafarer has been classified as category B, the approved medical practitioner shall clearly state on the medical certificate, the type of restriction and the period of time during which it shall be operative.

(2) Where a seafarer has been assessed as fit but requires medical treatment or surveillance at frequent intervals, the approved medical practitioner may classify the seafarer as category B and recommend that his service be restricted to ferry and coastal work.

Permanent
unfitness

4. (1) An approved medical practitioner shall, where possible, make full use of the categories B, C and D before classifying a serving seafarer as category E.

(2) An approved medical practitioner may classify a serving seafarer as category E only after a full investigation has been made and due consideration has been given to the case.

(3) Where the seafarer has been classified as category E, the approved medical practitioner shall, at the request of the seafarer, inform the seafarer's medical practitioner of the decision and the reasons for it.

PART B

Medical Standards

Gastro-
intestinal
infections

5. A seafarer who suffers from a gastro-intestinal infection shall be classified as category C until satisfactorily treated and in respect of catering staff, shall be examined periodically for one year.

Other com-
municable
diseases
Active
pulmonary
tuberculosis

6. A seafarer who suffers from a communicable disease, other than a gastro-intestinal infection, shall be classified as category C until satisfactorily treated.

7. In a case of active pulmonary tuberculosis—

- (a) an approved medical practitioner who:
 - (i) examines a seafarer who has had active pulmonary tuberculosis; and

- (ii) is satisfied, on the advice of a chest physician, that the lesion is fully healed and that the seafarer has completed a full course of chemotherapy,
- shall consider the suitability of the seafarer for re-entry into sea service;
- (b) a seafarer referred to in subclause (a) shall be classified as category A(T) initially, to allow for medical surveillance;
- (c) a seafarer who has had one or both of his lungs seriously affected shall not, generally, be considered suitable for re-entry into sea service; and
- (d) a seafarer who has had a relapse shall be classified as category E.
8. In a case of sexually transmitted disease, a seafarer who—
- (a) is acutely infected shall be classified as category C while under treatment;
- (b) is infected and undergoing treatment shall be classified as category C;
- (c) is under medical surveillance after undergoing treatment shall generally be regarded as fit for unrestricted service unless facilities for surveillance are inadequate, in which case, restricted service may be imposed; and
- (d) receives treatment shall produce evidence of a satisfactory test of cure.
9. (1) A seafarer who is infected with the Human Immune Virus (HIV), shall be classified as category A(T).
- (2) A seafarer who has confirmed Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome shall be classified as category E.
10. (1) In a case of a malignant neoplasm including lymphoma, leukaemia and similar conditions—
- (a) a seafarer who is diagnosed as having a malignant neoplasm shall be classified as category D; and
- (b) a seafarer referred to in paragraph (a) may be classified as category A, A(T), B or C on the assessment of progress, prognosis, measure of disability and the need for medical supervision following treatment.
- (2) In the case of basal cell skin cancer, no seafarer shall, within five years of completion of treatment, be classified as category A.
11. In a case of an endocrine or a metabolic disease, a serving seafarer who suffers from—
- (a) thyroid disease, shall be classified as category C for investigation and subsequently category A, A(T), B or C on assessment;
- (b) any other endocrine disease, shall be classified as category C for investigation upon which assessment will depend;
- (c) diabetes mellitus, and:
- (i) requires insulin, shall be classified as category E;
- (ii) whose diabetes is controlled by food restriction, shall be classified as category D and allowed an initial period of six months to achieve stabilisation;
- (iii) is mentioned in subparagraph (ii) shall, after the initial period of six months, be subject to medical review at appropriate intervals and the current treatment regimen shall be confirmed with the seafarer's medical practitioner at each review;
- (iv) who requires oral hypoglycaemic agents shall be classified as category D and allowed an initial period of six months to achieve stabilisation;

Sexually transmitted diseases

Human immune virus

Malignant neoplasms

Endocrine and metabolic diseases

- (v) is mentioned in subparagraph (iv) may, in the absence of any complications, be considered for sea service subject to a medical review and assessment for suitable sea service, every six months; and
- (vii) a seafarer who has undergone assessment under subparagraph (iii) and (v) shall be classified as category A(T); and
- (d) obesity—
- (i) which affects his tolerance for exercise, mobility and general health, shall be classified as category C for treatment;
- (ii) which is refractory or relapsing shall be classified as category E; and
- (iii) whose body mass index is thirty or more, shall have other existing risk factors for mobility and mortality taken into account before a classification can be determined.
- Diseases of the blood or blood forming organs 12. In a case of a disease of the blood or a blood forming organ, a seafarer who suffers from—
- (a) a disease of the haemopoetic system, shall not be allowed sea service; and
- (b) unexplained or symptomatic anaemia, shall be classified as category C and subsequently as category A, A(T), B or E on assessment.
- Mental disorders 13. In a case of mental disorder, a seafarer who—
- (a) suffers from acute psychosis whether organic, schizophrenic, manic depressive or any other psychosis listed in the International Classification of Diseases, shall be classified as category E;
- (b) suffers from persistent abuse of alcohol that affects his health by causing physical or behavioural disorder shall be classified as category E;
- (c) has a history of abuse of drugs or substances within the last five years shall be classified as category E;
- (d) is dependent on a dangerous drug shall be classified as category E; and
- (e) suffers from psychoneurosis including anxiety state, depression or any other mental disorder likely to impair safe performance at sea, shall be classified as category C for assessment and where the psychoneurosis is chronic or recurrent, as category E.
- Diseases of the nervous system or sensory organs 14. In a case of a disease of the nervous system or a sensory organ, a serving seafarer who—
- (a) suffers from organic nervous disease and in particular, a seafarer who has a condition causing defect of muscular power, balance, mobility and co-ordination, shall be classified as category E, while a seafarer who suffers from a minor localised disorder not causing symptoms of incapacity and unlikely to progress, may be classified as category A;
- (b) has suffered from any type of epilepsy since the age of five years shall be classified as category E;
- (c) suffers a single seizure shall be classified as category C for investigation and then, providing that the post medical history is clear and investigation has shown no abnormality, re-entry into sea service may be considered after one year without a seizure, without treatment, or after one year without a seizure, following the cessation of treatment;
- (d) has had cranial surgery or significant traumatic brain damage shall be classified as category D for twelve months and subsequently as category A, B or E on assessment;

- (e) suffers from slight infrequent attacks of migraine and who responds quickly to treatment shall be classified as category A, while a seafarer who suffers from frequent attacks of migraine causing incapacity shall be classified as category E;
- (f) has had a single attack of syncope or other disturbance of consciousness shall be classified as category C for assessment, while a seafarer who suffers from recurrent attacks with complete or partial loss of consciousness shall be classified as category E; and
- (g) suffers from Meniere's disease shall be classified as category E.
15. (1) The cardiovascular system of a seafarer shall generally be free from acute or chronic disease causing significant disability. Cardiovascular system
- (2) A seafarer who:
- (a) suffers from a valvular disease causing significant impairment or requiring surgery shall be classified as category E;
- (b) has a satisfactorily treated patent ductus arteriosus or a satisfactorily treated arterial septal defect may be accepted for sea service;
- (c) suffers from hypertension shall be classified as category C for investigation;
- (d) is a serving seafarer and suffers from hypertension and whose blood pressure can be maintained below 170/100 mm by dietary control shall be classified as category A(T) for annual assessment;
- (e) is a serving seafarer and suffers from hypertension whose blood pressure can be maintained below 170/100 mm by anti-hypertension therapy without significant side effects shall be classified as category A(T) to allow medical surveillance and to ensure that arrangements have been made for continuation of treatment;
- (f) suffers from hypertension in circumstances other than those specified in paragraphs (d) and (e) shall be classified as category E;
- (g) has a history of coronary thrombosis myocardial infarction shall be classified as category E;
- (h) has a confirmed case of angina shall be classified as category E;
- (i) suffers from a clinically significant abnormality of rate or rhythm or disorder of conduction shall be classified as category E;
- (j) has had any cerebrovascular accident including transient ischaemic attacks shall be classified as category E;
- (k) who suffers from general cerebral arteriosclerosis including dementia and senility shall be classified as category E;
- (l) has a history of intermittent claudication including a case where vascular surgery was required shall be classified as category E;
- (m) has a slight or moderate degree of varicose veins without symptoms, or oedema shall be classified as category A, while a seafarer who has symptoms shall be classified as category C for treatment;
- (n) has had an operation for varicose veins and the disease recurs with symptoms shall be classified as category D for further surgical opinion, but a seafarer who is not suitable for further treatment shall be classified as category E;
- (o) suffers from chronic varicose ulceration shall be classified as category E;
- (p) suffers from chronic varicose ulceration with thin unhealthy scars of healed ulcers or unhealthy skin of varicose eczema shall be classified as category E;
- (q) suffers from recurrent or persistent deep vein thrombosis or thrombophlebitis shall be classified as category E;

- (*r*) has hemorrhoids that are not prolapsed, bleeding or causing symptoms shall be classified as category A, while other cases shall be classified as category C until satisfactorily treated; and
- (*s*) has varicocoele without symptoms shall be classified as category A, while a seafarer who has symptoms shall be classified as category D for a surgical opinion.
- Respiratory system 16. (1) The respiratory system of a seafarer shall generally be free from acute or chronic disease causing significant disability.
- (2) A seafarer who—
- (*a*) suffers from acute sinusitis shall be classified as category C until it is resolved;
- (*b*) suffers from chronic sinusitis that is causing disability with frequent relapses despite treatment shall be classified as category E;
- (*c*) has nasal obstruction, including septal abnormality or polypus shall be classified as category C until satisfactorily treated;
- (*d*) has a history of frequent sore throats or unhealthy tonsils with adenitis shall be classified as category C until satisfactorily treated;
- (*e*) has a mild uncomplicated case of bronchitis or emphysema and has a good tolerance for exercise may be classified as category A, while a seafarer with recurring chronic bronchitis or emphysema causing significant disability in relation to the job shall be classified as category E;
- (*f*) is suspected of having bronchial asthma shall be classified as category C for investigation;
- (*g*) has confirmed bronchial asthma shall be classified as category E, unless the seafarer has—
- (i) a history of bronchial asthma which was resolved without recurrence, before the age of sixteen years, in which case he shall be classified as category A(T); and
- (ii) well controlled asthma treated with inhaled medication only and without a history of exacerbation requiring hospital admission or oral steroids, in which case he shall be classified as category A(T);
- (*h*) suffers from occupational asthma shall be classified as category B to avoid the allergen;
- (*i*) suffers from pneumothorax shall be classified as category D for at least twelve months; and
- (*j*) suffers from recurrent pneumothorax shall be classified as category E.
- Diseases of the digestive system 17. (1) A seafarer shall generally be orally fit.
- (2) A seafarer who has an infection of the mouth or gum or a dental defect shall be classified as category C until satisfactorily treated.
- (3) In a case of a disease of the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum, a seafarer who—
- (*a*) suffers from peptic ulceration shall be classified as category C for investigation;
- (*b*) has confirmed ulceration shall not be allowed to resume sea service until:
- (i) he is free from the symptoms of ulceration;
- (ii) there is evidence of healing on gastroscopy; and
- (iii) he has been on an ordinary diet, without treatment, for at least three months;

- (c) is referred to in paragraph (b), who has been allowed sea service, shall be classified as category A(T);
- (d) suffers from gastro-intestinal bleeding, perforation or recurrent peptic ulceration, despite maintenance H2 blocker treatment, or an unsatisfactory operation result, shall be classified as category E;
- (e) suffers from recurrent attacks of appendicitis shall be classified as category C pending surgical removal;
- (f) has non-infective enteritis and colitis that is severely recurrent or requires a special diet shall be classified as category E; and
- (g) has intestinal stoma shall be classified as category E.
- (4) In a case of a disease of the liver or pancreas, a seafarer who has—
- (a) cirrhosis of the liver shall be classified as category C for investigation, but where the condition is serious or progressive or where complications such as oesophageal varices or ascites are present, the seafarer shall be classified as category E.
- (b) had a complete surgical cure from biliary tract diseases shall be classified as category A or category A(T) on assessment; and
- (c) recurrent pancreatitis or a case in which alcohol is an aetiological factor, shall be classified as category E.
18. (1) A seafarer who has—
- (a) proteinuria, glycosuria or other urinary abnormalities shall be referred for investigation;
- (b) acute nephritis shall be classified as category C until resolved;
- (c) subacute, chronic nephritis or nephrosis shall be classified as category C for investigation and subsequently as category B or category E on assessment.
- (2) In a case of the urinary tract, a seafarer who—
- (a) has an acute urinary infection shall be classified as category C until satisfactorily treated, while recurrent cases shall be classified as category B, unless a full investigation has proved satisfactory;
- (b) has renal or ureteric calculus shall be classified as category C for investigation and any necessary treatment;
- (c) suffers an isolated attack of renal colic with passage of small calculus shall be classified as category A after a period of observation, provided that his urine and renal function remain normal and there is no clinical and radiological evidence of other calculi;
- (d) suffers from recurrent formation of stone shall be classified as category E;
- (e) suffers from urinary obstruction, from any cause, shall be classified as category D for investigation and where it is irremediable, as category E;
- (f) is a serving seafarer and has had a kidney removed and the remaining kidney is healthy with normal function, shall be classified as category A(T) and, where sea service is in the tropics or under other conditions of high temperature, as category B;
- (g) has had a renal transplant shall be classified as category E;
- (h) has incontinence of urine shall be classified as category C for investigation and where it is irremediable shall be classified as category E;

Diseases of
the genito-
urinary
system

- (i) has an enlarged prostate shall be classified as category C for investigation;
- (j) suffers from small and symptomless hydrocoele shall be classified as category A;
- (k) suffers from large or recurrent hydrocoele shall be classified as category C, or where untreated, as category E; and
- (l) a seafarer who suffers from abnormality of the primary and secondary sexual characteristics shall be classified as category C for investigation.

Obsterical
and gynaeco-
logical
conditions

19. (1) A seafarer who suffers from a gynaecological disorder or disease which may affect her capacity to work shall be classified as category E.

(2) A seafarer's medical practitioner shall discuss with the seafarer the implications of continuing sea service while being pregnant, particularly where it is a first pregnancy.

(3) A seafarer who has a normal pregnancy before the twenty-eighth week may be permitted sea service on short haul trips or on a long haul trip on a vessel carrying a medical practitioner and the seafarer shall be classified as category B to allow for ante-natal care.

(4) A seafarer who has passed her twenty-eighth week of pregnancy shall not be permitted sea service until at least six weeks after delivery.

(5) A seafarer diagnosed as having an abnormal pregnancy shall be classified as category D.

Skin

20. (1) A person who has a focus of skin sepsis shall not be employed as a member of a catering staff.

(2) A seafarer whose skin is liable to be aggravated by heat, sea air, oil, caustics, detergents or specific occupational allergens shall be classified as category A(T), B, C, D or E on assessment.

(3) A seafarer who has—

- (a) an infection of the skin shall be classified as category C until satisfactorily treated; and
- (b) acne, in most cases, shall be classified as category A, while a seafarer who has severe pustular cystic acne shall be classified as category E.

(4) In a case of another inflammatory skin condition, a seafarer who has—

- (a) atopic dermatitis and related conditions shall be classified as category C until satisfactorily treated;
- (b) contact dermatitis shall be classified as category C and be referred for a dermatological opinion;
- (c) acute eczema shall be classified as category C and shall not resume sea service until his skin is healthy;
- (d) recurrent eczema of more than minimal extent shall be classified as category E; and
- (e) psoriasis shall generally be classified as category A but a widespread or ulcerated case shall be classified as category C for treatment, while a severe case that is resistant to treatment, frequently relapsing or associated with joint disease, shall be classified as category E.

21. (1) A seafarer shall not have a defect of the musculo-skeletal system which may interfere with the discharge of his duties and his muscular power, balance, mobility and co-ordination shall be unimpaired. Musculo-skeletal system

(2) A seafarer who has a limb prosthesis shall be classified as category E.

(3) A seafarer who suffers from recurrent, incapacitating back pain shall be classified as category E.

(4) A seafarer who has—

(a) osteo-arthritis shall be classified as category C for assessment; and

(b) an advanced case of osteo-arthritis with disability shall be classified as category E.

(5) A seafarer who has—

(a) a hernia shall be classified as category C until the hernia is repaired; and

(b) a diaphragmatic hernia shall be classified according to the disability.

22. A seafarer who suffers from a speech defect that is likely to interfere with communication shall be classified as category E. Speech defects

23. (1) A seafarer who suffers from— Hearing

(a) acute and chronic otitis externa shall be classified as category C and shall be completely healed before returning to sea;

(b) acute otitis media shall be classified as category C until satisfactorily treated; and

(c) chronic otitis media shall be classified as category C but may be classified as category A or B after satisfactory treatment.

(2) A seafarer who—

(a) suffers from a loss of hearing with a degree of impairment that is sufficient to interfere with communication shall be classified as category E;

(b) is a serving seafarer and has suffered an unilateral, complete loss of hearing shall be assessed of this condition in relation to the job; and

(c) is a serving seafarer and is found to have impaired hearing acuity shall be referred for full investigation by a surgeon of the ear, nose and throat.

(3) A seafarer employed in the catering department who uses a satisfactory hearing aid may be allowed sea service where not hearing an instruction would not result in a danger to the seafarer or others but the hearing aid should be sufficiently effective to allow communication at normal conversational tones.

(4) A seafarer including an electrician and a radio officer who requires the use of a hearing aid shall not be permitted to work in, or be associated with, the deck or engine room departments.

PART C

VISUAL STANDARDS

24. A person shall not be accepted for training or service at sea where he has—

(a) an irremediable morbid condition of an eye or the lid of an eye, which is liable to the risk of aggravation or recurrence;

Diseases of the eye

- (b) diplopia, congenital night blindness, retinitis pigmentosa or any other serious or progressive disease of the eye; or
- (c) an homonymous or bitemporal defect which comes close to fixation where hemianopic or quadrantopic is present.
- Binocular vision 25. A person shall satisfy the standards for binocular vision set out in Table 1.
- Monocular vision 26. (1) Notwithstanding clause 25—
- (a) a monocular serving seafarer; or
- (b) a seafarer who becomes monocular during service at sea with no evidence of progressive disease in the remaining eye and who satisfies the standards for monocular vision set out in Table 2, shall be allowed to continue service at sea.
- (2) A seafarer shall be allowed a period of adaptation after becoming monocular, to enable him to descend and ascend stairs rapidly and safely.
- Visual aids 27. (1) A seafarer who uses—
- (a) visual aids, including spectacles or contact lenses, for the efficient performance of his duties; and
- (b) different visual aids for distant and near vision,
- shall carry a spare set of each visual aid while seafaring.
- (2) A seafarer who is required to use bifocal spectacles shall be allowed a period of adaptation during the initial use of the bifocal spectacles.
- (3) A seafarer shall not be allowed to use aids to colour vision, including red-tinted, x-chroma, chromas lenses or chromagen lenses.
- Pathological field defect 28. A seafarer, other than a new entrant, a deck officer and a monocular seafarer who has a pathological field defect, shall have a field of vision at least 120 degrees in the horizontal, measured by the Goldman perimeter using the iii/4 setting (equivalent perimetry) and there should be no significant defect in the binocular field which encroaches within 20 degrees of fixation above or below the meridian.
- Colour vision 29. (1) The colour vision of a deck officer and a rating shall be tested with Ishihara plates using the introductory plate and all the transformation and vanishing plates.
- (2) A candidate who fails the Ishihara colour plate test may request that his colour vision be re-tested using a Holmes Wright B lantern at a nominated centre.
- (3) The colour vision of a seafarer employed in the engineer or radio department shall be tested using Ishihara plates, Farnsworth D15 test or City University test.
- Standards for certain seafarers 30. Notwithstanding clauses 25 and 26, the following standards shall continue to apply to a seafarer in service before 1st August, 2002:
- (a) deck department personnel required to operate lifting plant: 6/9 for the better eye for aided visual acuity;
- (b) deck department personnel not required to perform lookout duties or to operate lifting plant: 6/18 for the better eye for aided visual acuity; and
- (c) engineers: 6/60 for the other eye for aided visual acuity.

TABLE 1

Category of sea-farer	Basic Visual Acuity Standard- unaided		Higher visual acuity- standard- aided if necessary		Near	Colour	Visual Field
	Better eye 6/60	Other eye 6/60	Better eye 6/6	Other eye 6/12			
Deck or dual career	Better eye 6/60	Other eye 6/60	Better eye 6/6	Other eye 6/12	N8	Ishihara or Lantern 2 miles	No pathological field defect
Engineer/ Radio	6/60		6/18	6/18	N8	Ishihara or Farnsworth D15 or City University	Sufficient to undertake duties efficiently
Others	Sufficient to undertake duties efficiently						

TABLE 2

Category of sea-farer	Basic Visual Acuity Standard- unaided		Higher visual acuity- standard- aided if necessary		Near	Colour	Visual Field
	Better eye 6/60	Other eye 6/60	Better eye 6/6	Other eye 6/12			
Deck	6/60	—	6/6	—	N8	Ishihara or Lantern 2 miles	No pathological field defect
Engineer/ Radio	6/60	—	6/9	0	N8	Ishihara or Farnsworth D15 or City University	Sufficient to undertake duties efficiently
Others	Sufficient to undertake duties efficiently						

SECOND SCHEDULE



FORM OF MEDICAL FITNESS CERTIFICATE

[Regulation 5(2)]

[Administration] [Country]

MEDICAL FITNESS CERTIFICATE

ISSUED UNDER THE SHIPPING (MEDICAL EXAMINATION) REGULATIONS, 1990
[which gives effect to the Medical Examination (Seafarers) Convention, 1946
through International Labour Organization Convention No. 147]

Name of seafarer..... Discharge Book No.....

Date of Examination Date of Expiry of this Certificate

I, certify that I have examined the seafarer
(Name of approved medical practitioner)

named above in accordance with the Medical and Visual Standards for Seafarers as
contained in the First Schedule of the above-named Regulations and have found him/her
fit for seafaring subject to the following restrictions:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Official Stamp

Signed";
(Approved Medical Practitioner)

- (i) in the Fifth Schedule by deleting—
- (i) the words “FIFTH SCHEDULE” and substituting the words “THIRD SCHEDULE”; and
 - (ii) the words “FORM OF NOTICE OF FAILURE TO MEET MEDICAL FITNESS” and substituting the words “FORM OF NOTICE OF RESTRICTIONS OR UNFITNESS”; and
 - (iii) the words “Third and Fourth” and substituting the words “First and Second”;
- (j) in the Sixth Schedule, by deleting the word “SIXTH” wherever it occurs and substituting the word “FOURTH”; and
- (k) in the Seventh Schedule, by deleting the word “SEVENTH” wherever it occurs and substituting the word “FIFTH”.

Dated this 31st day of July, 2002.

A. PIGGOTT
Minister of Works and Transport