



MLN 1.2

Revision No 2

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MLC Title 1.2 Medical Certificates

This MLN provides guidance on compliance with Isle of Man (IOM) regulations which give effect to MLC 2006 Title 1.2. Implementation of these guidelines will be taken as evidence of compliance with the Isle of Man regulations.

The guidelines do not preclude the shipowner from demonstrating an equivalent or higher standard as an "alternative method" of evidence of compliance.

Documents referred to in this notice:

Maritime Labour Convention 2006;

International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW);

ILO 73 Medical Examination (Seafarers) Convention, 1946.

Most regulations and notices are available on the Isle of Man Government website: www.iomshipregistry.com or by contacting marine.survey@gov.im

1. Medical Certificates

This MLN explains the requirements to ensure that all seafarers on Isle of Man registered ships are certified as medically fit to perform their duties. In order to comply with this regulation the shipowner is responsible to ensure that all seafarers hold a valid medical certificate attesting that they are medically fit to perform their duties before they begin work on a ship.

All seafarers' medical certificates are inspected by the surveyor on the vessel during MLC inspections and at the Ship Registry office when a seafarer requests an Isle of Man Endorsement. In either case the inspection is to ensure the certificates meet the minimum requirements as stated in this MLN.

2. Medical Practitioners and Medical Examinations

It should be noted that due to the low number of seafarers living on the Isle of Man the Ship Registry does not regulate medical practitioners, or issue seafarers' medical certificates. However there are MCA registered medical practitioners on the Isle of Man who are authorised to carry out medical examinations and issue medical certificates to seafarers on the Isle of Man.

3. Requirements for Medical Certificates

1. The Ship Registry will accept medical certificates that have been issued in accordance with at least one of the following conventions:
 - Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC);
 - International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW);
 - ILO 73 Medical Examination (Seafarers) Convention, 1946; or
 - In the case of seafarers who are not covered by the STCW convention, the medical certificate shall meet the substance of the STCW requirements. This could apply to seafarers who do not have watchkeeping responsibilities on board the vessel, yet are classified as seafarers in accordance with MLC.

In order for the certificate to be valid it will have to be in English.

2. For seafarers serving on ships on the United Kingdom Continental Shelf that service the oil and gas industry, a valid United Kingdom Oil and Gas Medical Certificate will also be accepted.

4. Validity of Medical Certificates

1. Unless a shorter period is required under STCW, or because of a specific duty the seafarer is to perform, the following shall apply:
 - the medical certificate shall be valid for a maximum period of 2 years;
 - for seafarers under the age of 18 the medical certificate shall be issued for a maximum period of 1 year; and
 - a colour vision certificate shall be valid for a maximum period of 6 years.
2. If a certificate expires while the seafarer is at sea, the certificate is allowed to remain in force until the next port of call where the seafarer can obtain a medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner though this period shall not exceed 3 months.
3. The Ship Registry shall be contacted to request permission to allow a seafarer with an expired medical certificate to join and work on a vessel where the shipowner has an urgent crewing requirement. This request will only be considered provided that:
 - the seafarer joins the vessel with a medical certificate which has not been expired for longer than 1 month;
 - the seafarer undertakes a medical examination at the next port of call where it is possible to obtain a medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner; and
 - the period of permission shall not exceed 3 months.