



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-261

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To: **Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (ROs).**

Subject: **Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) - Medical Certifications Models and Standards**

Reference: **STCW 78 Convention as amended and Circular N° DGGM-DALM-009-2012.**

1. The purpose of this Circular is to inform users of the Panamanian Registry about the Medical Certifications of Seafarers which is a mandatory document that must be submitted by seafarers when they apply for a Certificate of Competency (title, countersign, endorsement).

2. Given the international nature lining the issuance and presentation of medical Certificates for seafarers and the format in which it shall be stated, it is necessary to make the following clarifications:

1. Medical Certifications of Seafarers to be issued by the Republic of Panama must be provided by qualified medical personnel and recognized by the Panama Maritime Authority in the official format adopted for this purpose in accordance with the requirements in Rule I/9 Section A-I/9 of the STCW 78 Convention as amended.
2. Medical Certifications issued abroad, must be provided by qualified medical personnel and recognized by their respective Administrations in the formats that for such purpose are authorized by those Administrations in compliance with the requirements of Rule I/9, Section A-I/9 of the STCW 78 as amended.
3. The Medical Certification format authorized by the Panama Maritime Authority can only be used by the medical personnel qualified in the Republic of Panama.
4. It is necessary to indicate that at the moment of receiving the medical certification of seafarers, it shall be considered that the formats of foreign medical certification vary from Administration to Administration. Nevertheless, the Certificates must be issued by medical personnel qualified by their respective Administrations.

<i>Prepared by: Translator</i>	<i>Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief</i>	<i>Aproved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i>
<i>Control N°: F-RIN-04-01</i>	<i>Version: 05</i>	<i>Date: 21 January, 2013</i>
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5. Records or lists of medical personnel recognized to perform recognitions to seafarers and issue Medical Certificates must be made available to third States, companies and interested seafarers, by each Administration, in compliance with Section A-I/9, point 4 of the STCW 78 Convention as amended.
6. It must be ensured that these records or lists can be requested through consulates, and have them available at the Regional Offices when evaluating the medical Certificates submitted by the seafarers.
7. Likewise, it is expected that each Administration shall adopt its own official format of the medical Certificate, however, in case of not having an official format, the medical Certificates at least must include the information required in Section A-I/9, number 7 of the STCW 78 Convention as amended, as follows:
 - A) Competent authority
 - B) Seafarer Information
 - B.1) Name
 - B.2) Date of Birth
 - B.3) Gender
 - B.4) Nationality
 - C) Declaration of the recognized medical practitioner
 - D) Details of issuing authority
 - D.1) Official Stamp of the issuing authority
 - D.2) Signature of the authorized person
 - E) Seafarer's Signature
8. Unless a shorter period is required by reason of the specific duties to be performed by the seafarer concerned or is required under STCW:
 - (a) A medical certificate shall be valid for a maximum period of two years
 - (b) A certification of colour vision shall be valid for a maximum period of six years.
9. Medical Certificates can be issued on the official language of the issuing country. If the used language is not English, the text must have an English translation, based on Section A-I/9, number 8 of the STCW 78 Convention as amended.
10. The Republic of Panama is aware that some Companies conduct medical examination for Company and specific industry employment purpose and that such medical examination may include more requirements and/or standards than those states in the STCW '78, as amended or MLC, 2006 provisions. Medical certificates issued following such Company or industry specific employment examination may be accepted as far as they comply with the following:
 - a) The medical personnel must be approved by the Panama Maritime Authority or an

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- Administration of a ratifying country of the STCW '78, as amended or MLC, 2006, to conduct the medical examination. The document by which the medical personnel are authorized should have reference to the authorizing Administration or country.
- b) The medical certificate must be in English and include the minimum requirements of STCW '78, as amended.
 - c) The seafarers is not a Master, Chief Engineer, Chief Mate, Second Engineer, Officer on Charge of a Navigation Watch, Officer in Charge of an Engineering Watch, Electro-Technical Officer, Able Seaman, Electro-Technical Rating, Navigational or Engineering Rating, Offshore Installation Manager, Barge Supervisor or Ballast Control Operator.”

11. [Guidelines on the Medical Examinations of Seafarers](#)

12. [Medical Certificate form](#)

13. [Medical Examinations form](#)

September, 2014 – Change of email address on footer below

June, 2013 – New point 10

April, 2013 – Change of Contact Points below.

April, 2013 – Addition of new form (point 13)

April, 2013 – Inclusion of 2 additional forms (points 11 and 12)

March, 2013 – Addition of new point 10.

December, 2012

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to:

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<i>Prepared by: Translator</i>	Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief	<i>Aproved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i>	
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