

*Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations***SAINT LUCIA**

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT, 2016, No. 70

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SAINT LUCIA

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT, 2016, No. 70

[25th July, 2016]

In exercise of the power conferred under section 172 of the Shipping Act, Cap. 13.27, the Minister responsible for shipping makes these Regulations:

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations, 2016.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations —

“Act” means the Shipping Act, Cap. 13.27;

“duly qualified medical practitioner” has the meaning assigned under section 2 of the Act;

“chemical” means any liquid product listed in any international instrument relating to the carriage of dangerous chemicals in bulk and includes products not listed in the international instrument but which have been accepted for carriage in chemical tankers by IMO;

“GT” means gross tonnage as determined in accordance with the Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations, No. 9 of 2016;

“medical fitness certificate” means a medical fitness certificate issued under regulation 9;

“IMO” means the International Maritime Organization;

“offshore installation” means a fixed or floating platform capable of engaging in operations for the exploration or exploitation of resources beneath the seabed, whether on location or not.

*Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations***Application**

3.—(1) These Regulations apply to sea-going Saint Lucian ships.

(2) Notwithstanding subregulation (1), regulations 13 and 14 apply to sea-going foreign ships when they are in a Saint Lucia port or Saint Lucian waters, being ships which are of 100 GT or over other than fishing vessels and pleasure craft and offshore installations whilst on their working stations.

(3) These Regulations do not apply to the employment of —

- (a) a pilot who is not a member of the crew;
- (b) a person employed onboard a ship or offshore installation solely in connection with the construction, alteration, repair or testing of the ship or offshore installation, its machinery or equipment, and not engaged in the navigation of the ship or offshore installation;
- (c) a person solely employed in work directly related to —
 - (i) the exploration of the seabed or subsoil or the exploitation of their natural resources,
 - (ii) the storage of gas in or under the seabed or the recovery of gas so stored,
 - (iii) the laying, inspection, testing, repair, alteration, renewal or removal of any submarine telegraph cable, or
 - (iv) pipe-line works, including the assembling, inspecting, testing, maintaining, adjusting, repairing, altering, renewing, changing the position of, or dismantling of a pipe-line or length of pipe-line,who is not engaged in the navigation of the ship or offshore installation or in the deck, engine room, radio, medical or catering department of that ship or offshore installation;
- (d) a person employed in a port who is not ordinarily employed at sea; or

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- (e) a person employed onboard a ship or offshore installation solely to provide goods, personal services or entertainment on board who is not employed by the owner or the person employing the master of the ship and has no emergency safety responsibilities.

Recognition of duly qualified medical practitioners

4.—(1) A duly qualified medical practitioner may be recognized to conduct a medical examination of a seafarer and issue a medical fitness certificate under these Regulations if he or she —

- (a) has experience in general and occupational medicine or maritime occupational medicine;
- (b) has knowledge of the living and working conditions onboard ships and the job demands on seafarers in so far as they relate to the effects of health problems on fitness for work, gained wherever possible through special instruction and through knowledge based on personal experience of seafaring;
- (c) has facilities for the conduct of examinations that are conveniently situated for access by seafarers and enable all the requirements of the medical fitness examination to be met and conducted with respect for confidentiality, modesty and cleanliness;
- (d) is familiar with the latest edition of the International Medical Guide for Ships, or an equivalent medical guide for use on ships.

(2) The Minister shall maintain a list of recognized duly qualified medical practitioners.

(3) The list maintained under subregulation (2) must be made available to competent authorities in other countries, companies and seafarers' organizations on request.

Requirement for medical fitness certificate

5.—(1) Subject to this regulation, a seafarer shall not work on a ship unless that seafarer holds of a valid medical fitness certificate issued under these Regulations.

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(2) A seafarer who contravenes subregulation (1) commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years or to both.

(3) Notwithstanding subregulation (1), a seafarer —

- (a) who has served at sea on a Saint Lucian ship at any time during one year immediately preceding the coming into force of these Regulations may continue his or her seagoing employment without a medical fitness certificate for a period of one year from the date of commencement of these Regulations;
- (b) whose medical fitness certificate expires while he or she is in a location where medical examination in accordance with these Regulations is impracticable, may continue to be employed without a medical fitness certificate for a period not exceeding three months from the date of expiry of the medical fitness certificate.

Medical examination

6.—(1) In order for a seafarer to obtain a medical fitness certificate he or she shall be examined by a recognized duly qualified medical practitioner.

(2) A seafarer who is being examined by a recognized duly qualified medical practitioner shall —

- (a) produce personal identification;
- (b) reveal to the recognized duly qualified medical practitioner if he or she has been issued with a medical fitness certificate indicating that he or she failed a medical examination by another recognized duly qualified medical practitioner.

(3) A seafarer —

- (a) who is below the age of eighteen years is required to have a yearly medical examination;
- (b) who is eighteen years of age or over is required to have a medical examination at an interval not exceeding two years;

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- (c) who serves on a bulk chemical carrier is required to have a medical examination at a yearly or more frequent interval, according to the nature of the cargo.

Conduct of medical examination

7.—(1) A recognized duly qualified medical practitioner who conducts a medical examination shall take into account the vision standards set out in Schedule 1.

(2) The recognized duly qualified medical practitioner shall be satisfied in each case that —

- (a) no disease or defect is present which could either be aggravated by working at sea or represent an unacceptable health risk to the seafarer, other crew or the safety of the ship;
- (b) no condition is present which is likely to lead to problems during voyages and no treatment is being followed which might cause adverse side effects.

(3) Notwithstanding subregulations (1) and (2), the recognized duly qualified medical practitioner shall take into account occupational circumstances which apply at sea including —

- (a) the potentially hazardous nature of seafaring, which calls for a high standard of health and continuing fitness;
- (b) the restricted medical facilities likely to be available onboard a ship;
- (c) the possible difficulty of providing or replacing required medication;
- (d) the confined nature of life onboard a ship and the need to be able to live and work in a closed community;
- (e) the limited crew complements which mean that illness of one crew member may place a burden on others or impair the safe and efficient working of the ship;
- (f) the potential need for crew members to play a role in an emergency drill, which may involve strenuous activity in adverse conditions;

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- (g) since many seafarers will need to join and leave ships by air, the need for a seafarer to be free from any condition which precludes air travel or could be seriously affected by it, such as pneumothorax or conditions which are predisposed to barotrauma.

(4) A recognized duly qualified medical practitioner may, with the consent of the seafarer, consult with the seafarer's doctor, and when it is necessary to consult with the seafarer's doctor the usual ethical considerations apply, but the decision on medical fitness rests with the recognized duly qualified medical practitioner.

(5) A recognized duly qualified medical practitioner who conducts a medical examination under this regulation shall —

- (a) make a report of each medical examination in the form set out in Schedule 2; and
- (b) retain the report under paragraph (a) for a period of six years.

Assessment of fitness

8.—(1) In assessing whether or not the seafarer is fit in terms of the medical and vision standards —

- (a) the seafarer may be assessed as fit in category —
 - (i) A, for unrestricted sea service,
 - (ii) A(T), for unrestricted sea service, subject to medical surveillance,
 - (iii) B, for restricted sea service only, with the restriction being clearly specified on the medical fitness certificate;
- (b) the seafarer may be assessed as not fit in category —
 - (i) C, temporarily, subject to review in four weeks,
 - (ii) D, indefinitely, subject to review in six months,
 - (iii) E, permanently.

(2) A seafarer assessed as fit in category A(T) is considered fit for all shipping trades, geographical areas, types of ships or jobs but

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medical surveillance is required at intervals and the medical fitness certificate should be validated only for the appropriate period which should take into account the expected duration of the tour of duty.

(3) A seafarer assessed as fit in category B for restricted service is restricted to certain shipping trades, geographical areas, types of ships or jobs for such period of time as stipulated in the medical fitness certificate.

(4) Before assessing a seafarer as not fit in category E permanently, a recognized duly qualified medical practitioner shall make full use of categories B, C and D, conduct a full investigation and consideration of the case and discuss the matter with the seafarer.

(5) A recognized duly qualified medical practitioner shall have regard to the categories specified for the diseases set out in Schedule 3.

(6) Where a recognized duly qualified medical practitioner assesses a seafarer as not fit under subregulation (1)(b), he or she shall give the seafarer notice in the form set out in Schedule 4.

Issuance of medical fitness certificate

9. Where, upon medical examination, the recognized duly qualified medical practitioner assesses the seafarer as fit for sea service under regulation 8(1)(a), he or she shall issue a medical fitness certificate in the form set out in Schedule 5.

Recognition of medical fitness certificate issued abroad

10. Where the laws of any other State provide for the medical examination for, and grant of, medical fitness certificates to seafarers, and the Minister is satisfied that all medical examinations and related requirements for the medical examination in that other State are such as to be equally effective as the medical examination and related requirements under these Regulations, the Minister may deem the medical fitness certificate granted in accordance with the laws of that State to be at least equivalent to a medical fitness certificate granted under these Regulations.

Period of validity

11. A medical fitness certificate issued under regulation 9 is valid commencing from the date of issue of the medical fitness certificate —

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- (a) in the case of a seafarer under eighteen years of age, for one year;
- (b) in the case of a seafarer eighteen years of age or over, for two years;
- (c) in the case of colour vision certificates, for a maximum of six years.

Suspension or cancellation of medical fitness certificate

12.—(1) A recognized duly qualified medical practitioner may suspend or cancel a medical fitness certificate under subregulation (2) if he or she 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 his or her medical fitness certificate; or
- (b) when the medical fitness certificate was issued the recognized duly qualified medical practitioner, had he or she been in possession of full details of the seafarer's condition, could not reasonably have considered that the seafarer was fit, having regard to the medical standards referred to in regulation 7; or
- (c) the medical fitness certificate was issued otherwise than in accordance with these Regulations.

(2) Where a ground under subregulation (1) exists, the recognized duly qualified medical practitioner may —

- (a) suspend the validity of the certificate until the seafarer has undergone a further medical examination;
- (b) suspend the certificate for such period as he or she considers the seafarer will remain unfit to go to sea; or
- (c) cancel the certificate where he or she considers that the seafarer is likely to remain permanently unfit to go to sea.

(3) A recognized duly qualified medical practitioner shall notify the seafarer in writing of the suspension or cancellation of a medical fitness certificate.

*Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations***Review**

13.—(1) Subject to subregulation (2), a seafarer —

- (a) who has served at sea on a Saint Lucian ship at any time during the two years immediately preceding the date on which these Regulations come into operation; or
- (b) who has held a valid medical fitness certificate at any time during the two years immediately preceding an assessment of not fit or suspension or cancellation of a medical fitness certificate,

who is aggrieved by the assessment of a recognized duly qualified medical practitioner or the suspension of a medical fitness certificate for a period of more than three months or cancellation of a medical fitness certificate under regulation 12, may apply to the Director or if the Director so directs, the Registrar, for the matter to be reviewed by a medical referee appointed by the Director.

(2) An application for a review must —

- (a) be made in the form set out in Schedule 6;
- (b) be submitted within one month of the date on which the seafarer is given notice of the refusal, imposition of a restriction, suspension or cancellation of a medical fitness certificate, or such longer period as the Director determines, where the delay is caused by the seafarer's employment onboard ship away from Saint Lucia; and
- (c) include the applicant's consent for the recognized duly qualified medical practitioner responsible for the assessment of fitness, suspension or cancellation of a medical fitness certificate to provide a report to the medical referee, and specify the name and address of that practitioner.

(3) The medical referee to whom the matter is referred by the Director or if the Director so directs, the Registrar, shall —

- (a) obtain a report from the recognized duly qualified medical practitioner by whom the applicant was examined and shall examine the medical condition of the applicant;

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- (b) where the applicant so requests, disclose to the applicant the report of the recognized duly qualified medical practitioner and any other evidence not produced by the applicant himself, but such disclosure is not required to be made, where the medical referee considers that disclosure would be harmful to the applicant's health;
- (c) have regard to any relevant medical evidence, whether produced by the applicant, his or her employer, or otherwise, and whether or not disclosed as aforesaid.

(4) In the light of the medical evidence before him or her, the medical referee shall, where he or she considers that the applicant is fit having regard to the medical standards referred to in regulation 7, issue to the applicant, a medical fitness certificate.

(5) Where the medical referee considers that restrictions should be imposed as to capacity or geographical area other than those imposed on the medical fitness certificate issued to the applicant or that any restrictions so imposed should be deleted or varied, he shall issue to the applicant, a revised medical fitness certificate and the former medical fitness certificate ceases to have effect and in any other case, he or she shall notify the applicant of his or her decision.

(6) An action by the medical referee under subregulation (4) or (5) shall be taken not later than two months from the date on which the application for review is submitted to the Director or if the Director so directs, the Registrar, who shall notify the medical referee of the date, or within such longer period as the Director determines.

Inspection, production of documents and detention

14. An authorised officer may inspect, require the production of any document in relation to, or detain, any ship in accordance with sections 458, 479 and 480 of the Act.

Other offences

15.—(1) A person shall not employ a seafarer in a ship in a capacity or in a geographical area precluded by any restriction in that seafarer's medical fitness certificate.

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(2) A person shall not employ a seafarer in a ship carrying chemicals in bulk unless that seafarer is the holder of a valid medical fitness certificate issued in respect of a medical examination undertaken not more than twelve months previously, notwithstanding that the period of validity specified in the medical fitness certificate may exceed twelve months.

(3) An employer who contravenes subregulation (1) or (2) commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years or to both.

(4) In any proceedings for an offence under this regulation it is a defence for the employer to show that all reasonable steps had been taken by him or her to ensure compliance with these Regulations.

Transitional

16.—(1) Subject to subregulation (2), a medical fitness certificate issued before the coming into force of these Regulations is deemed for the purposes of these Regulations to be equivalent to a medical fitness certificate issued under these Regulations.

(2) A medical fitness certificate issued by a recognized duly qualified medical practitioner remains valid from the date of the medical examination only for the appropriate maximum period, according to the age of the seafarer, under regulation 8, or for such lesser period as may be specified in that certificate.

*Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations***SCHEDULE 1**

(Regulation 7(1))

VISION STANDARDS FOR SEAFARERS

- 1.1 No person should be accepted for training or sea service where any irremediable morbid condition of either eye, or the lids of either eye, is present and liable to risk of aggravation or recurrence.
- 1.2 Binocular vision is necessary for all categories of seafarers. However, monocular seafarers serving and those who become monocular in service and meet the required standard should be allowed to continue at sea.
- 1.3 In all cases where visual aids, spectacles or contact lenses, are required for the efficient performance of duties, a spare pair must be carried while seafaring. Where different visual aids are used for distant and near vision, a spare pair of each must be carried.
- 1.4 Colour Vision for deck officers and ratings is tested with Ishihara plates; using the introductory plate and all the transformation and vanishing plates. Candidates who fail the Ishihara colour plate test may ask for their colour vision to be re-tested using a Holmes Wright B lantern at a nominated centre. For engineer and radio department personnel colour vision is tested using either Ishihara plates (as for deck department) or Farnsworth D15 test or City University test.

*Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations***Table**

Category of seafarer	Basic Visual Acuity Standard - unaided		Higher visual acuity standard - aided if necessary		Near	Colour	Visual Field
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						
Those who become monocular in service with no evidence of progressive eye disease in the remaining eye							
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						
There should be a sufficient period of adaptation after becoming monocular to enable stairs to be descended rapidly and safely.							

Notes

1. No diplopia, congenital night blindness, retinitis pigmentosa or any other serious or progressive eye disease is permitted.
2. Where bifocal glasses are worn there should be a period of adaptation first because of the risk of falls.
3. Where glasses or contact lenses are needed to meet the higher standard, a spare pair (distance and near vision if necessary) should be carried.
4. Aids to colour vision, e.g. Red-tinted, x-chroma, chromas lenses and chromagen lenses are not permitted.

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5. Seafarers who suffer pathological field defects (i.e. not new entrants, deck officers and monocular seafarers) should have a field of vision at least 120 degrees in the horizontal measured by the Goldman perimeter using the iii/4 setting (equivalent perimetry). In addition, there should be no significant defect in the binocular field which encroaches within 20 degrees of fixation above or below the meridian. Homonymous or bi-temporal defects which come close to fixation where hemianopic or quadrantic are not accepted.

6. Where the vision standard in this Schedule is marginally higher than the previous standard, seafarers in service before the date of publication of this Schedule may continue to be assessed according to the old standard, to ensure that serving seafarers are not penalised. This means that the following standards may continue to apply for seafarers already in service:

- .1 deck department personnel required to operate lifting plant: 6/9 for the better eye (as opposed to the new standard of 6/6) for aided visual acuity;
- .2 deck department personnel not required to perform lookout duties or to operate lifting plant: 6/18 for the better eye (as opposed to the new standard of 6/6) for aided visual acuity;
- .3 engineers: 6/60 for the other eye (As opposed to the new standard of 6/18) for aided visual acuity.

*Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations***SCHEDULE 2**

(Regulation 7(5))

FORM OF REPORT OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION REPORT** (This Report comprises 2 pages)**PLEASE COMPLETE CLEARLY IN CAPITAL LETTERS IN BLACK INK OR BY USE OF A TYPEWRITER**

Last Name of Applicant:			First Name of applicant:		Middle Initial
Seafarers Number (if assigned)					
Date of Birth:			Place of Birth:		Sex:
Month	Day	Year	City	Country	[] : Male [] : Female
Examination for Duty As: [] : Master [] : Radio Officer [] : Mate [] : Rating [] : Engineer			Mailing Address of Applicant:		
MEDICAL EXAMINATION					
Height:	Weight:	Blood Pressure:	Pulse:	Respiration:	General Appearance:
Vision: With Glasses Without Glasses			Right Eye:	Left Eye: Hearing:	Hearing
					Right Ear Left Ear
Colour Test Type:[]: Book [] : Lantern			Check if Colour Test is Normal: Yellow Red Green Blue		
Head and Neck:			Heart (Cardiovascular):		
Lungs:			Speech (Is speech unimpaired for normal voice communication?):		
Extremities:					
Upper			Lower		

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Is applicant suffering from any disease likely to be aggravated by, or to render him/her unfit for service at sea or likely to endanger the health of other persons on board? (Give further details overleaf if necessary):

This is to certify that a physical examination was given to: [Name of Applicant]

The Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations have been/have not been* met and a Medical Certificate has/has not* been issued.

Delete as appropriate and tick box below

A Unrestricted sea service []

A (T) Unrestricted sea service, subject to medical supervision []

B Restrictive Service only []

Details of any Restriction

.....

Period of restriction

C. Temporarily [] (Review in (max. four) weeks)

D. Indefinitely [] (Review in(max. six) months)

E. Permanently []

Name and Degree of Medical Doctor

Address

Name of Medical Doctor's Certifying Authority.....

Date of Issue of Medical Doctor's Certificate.....

Signature of Medical Doctor

Date

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Signature of Applicant

.....
Date of Application:

The signature should be affixed in the presence of the examining Medical Doctor and signed without touching any of the box lines.

Remarks to or further details of Medical Examination:
(to be completed by examining Medical Doctor)

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*Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations***SCHEDULE 3**

(Regulation 8(5))

MEDICAL STANDARDS FOR SEAFARERS**3.1 Infectious Diseases**

3.1.1 Gastro-Intestinal Infectious Diseases – until satisfactorily treated – category C. Special care should be taken in respect of catering staff.

3.1.2 Other Infectious or Contagious Diseases until satisfactorily treated – category C.

3.1.3 Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

.1 When the examining doctor is satisfied, on the advice of a chest physician, that the lesion is fully healed and that the patient has completed a full course of chemotherapy, then re-entry should be considered. In such cases, Category “A(T)” would be appropriate initially to allow for adequate surveillance.

.2 Cases where either one or both lungs have been seriously affected are rarely suitable for re-employment. All relapsed cases should be category E.

3.1.4 Sexually Transmissible Diseases

- .1 All cases of acute infection or while under treatment – category C. Cases under surveillance having finished treatment will usually be fit for normal service but restricted service may be necessary if facilities for supervision are inadequate.

In all cases evidence of satisfactory tests of cure should be produced.

3.1.5 AIDS related complex and clinical AIDS - All confirmed cases – category E.

3.2 Malignant Neoplasms

3.2.1 Malignant Neoplasms - including Lymphoma, Leukemia and similar conditions.

3.2.2 Each case should be graded on diagnosis – category D. Later progression to Categories A, A(T), B or C should be dependent on assessment of progress, prognosis, measure of disability and the need for surveillance following treatment. No unrestricted category A grading should be given within 5 years of completion of treatment, except in cases of skin cancer.

3.3 Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases

3.3.1 Serving seafarers developing thyroid disease - for investigation – category C, then category A, A (T), B or C on case assessment.

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3.3.2 All other cases of endocrine disease in serving seafarers - for investigation – category C upon which assessment will depend.

3.3.3 Diabetes Mellitus -

- .1 all cases requiring insulin – category E;
- .2 serving seafarers whose diabetes is controlled by food restriction; an initial period of 6 months should be allowed to achieve stabilization - category D. Thereafter, to be subject to medical review at appropriate intervals. The current treatment regimen should be confirmed with the general practitioner at each review. (Category A (T));
- .3 serving seafarers requiring hypoglycemic agents: an initial period of 6 months should be allowed to achieve stabilization – category D. Thereafter, in the absence of any complication, service may be considered subject to 6 monthly medical reviews and assessment for suitable job and sea trade. (Category A (T) on assessment).

3.3.4 Obesity - A general degree of obesity, with or without complications, and adversely affecting exercise tolerance, mobility and general health - category C for treatment.

Refractory or relapsing cases - category E.

Note: When a body mass index (BMI - weight in kg/height in m²) is 30 or over, it is especially important to take into account other existing risk factors for mobility and mortality.

3.4 Diseases of the Blood and Blood Forming Organs

- 3.4.1 There should not be any significant disease of the haemopoetic system.
- 3.4.2 Unexplained or symptomatic anaemia - category C, then category A, A(T), B or E on case assessment.

3.5 Mental Disorders

3.5.1 Acute Psychosis - whether organic, schizophrenic, manic depressive or any other psychosis listed in the International Classification of Diseases - category E.

3.5.2 Alcohol Abuse (Dependency) - where persistent and affecting health by causing physical or behavioural disorder - category E.

3.5.3 Drug Dependence

- .1 A history of abuse of drugs or substances within the last 5 years – category E.
- .2 Neurosis - e.g. - Anxiety state, depression, or any other mental disorder likely to impair safe performance at sea - category C, for assessment. Chronic or recurrent - category E.

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3.6 Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organs

- 3.6.1 .1 Organic Nervous Disease - especially those conditions causing defect of muscular power, balance, mobility and co-ordination - category E
- .2 Some minor localized disorders not causing symptoms of incapacity and unlikely to progress, may be - category A.

3.6.2 Epilepsy

- .1 Any type of epilepsy since the age of 5 years - category E.
- .2 A single fit in a serving seafarer - category C for investigation. Then, providing that the post medical history is clear and investigation has shown no abnormality; re-entry can be considered after 1 year without seizure without treatment or after 1 year without seizure following the cessation of treatment.
- .3 Serving seafarers who have had cranial surgery or significant traumatic brain damage - category D for 12 months - then category A, B or E on case assessment.

3.6.3 Migraine - slight infrequent attacks responding quickly to treatment - category A. Frequent attacks causing incapacity - category E.

3.6.4 Syncope or Other Disturbances of Consciousness for assessment - category C. Recurrent attacks with complete or partial loss of consciousness - category E.

3.6.5 Ménière's Disease - category E.

3.7 Cardiovascular System

3.7.1 The Cardiovascular System should be free from acute or chronic disease causing significant disability.

- .1 Valvular disease - causing significant impairment or having required surgery - category E.
- .2 Satisfactorily treated patent ductus arteriosus or arterial septal defect could be accepted.

3.7.2 Hypertension

- .1 All cases for investigation - category C.
- .2 Serving seafarers with hypertension whose blood pressure can be maintained below 170/100mm by dietary control - category A (T) for annual assessment.
- .3 Serving seafarers whose blood pressure can be maintained below 170/100mm by anti-hypertension therapy without significant side effect - category B; category A(T) to allow for health surveillance and to ensure that arrangements have been made for continuation of treatment.

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.4 All other cases - category E.

3.7.3 Ischaemic Heart Disease

.1 A history of Coronary Thrombosis Myocardial infarction - category E.

.2 Confirmed Angina - category E.

3.7.4 Other Cardiovascular Disorders

Any clinically significant abnormality of rate or rhythm or disorder of conduction - category E.

3.7.5 Cerebro-vascular Disease

.1 Any cerebro-vascular accident including transient ischaemic attacks - category E.

.2 General cerebral arteriosclerosis including dementia and senility - category E.

3.7.6 Diseases of Arteries

A history of intermittent claudication - including any case where vascular surgery was required - category E.

3.7.7 Disease of Veins

.1 Varicose Veins B slight degree - A. Moderate degree without symptoms or oedema may be A, but with symptoms - category C for treatment. Recurrent after operation, with symptoms - category D for further surgical opinion or, where not suitable for further treatment - category E.

.2 Chronic varicose ulceration - E. Thin unhealthy scars of healed ulcers or unhealthy skin of varicose eczema - category E.

.3 Recurrent or persistent deep vein thrombosis or thrombophlebitis - category E.

.4 Haemorrhoids - not prolapsed, bleeding or causing symptoms - category A. Other cases should be category C until satisfactory treatment has been obtained.

.5 Varicocoele - symptomless - category A. With symptoms - category D for surgical opinion.

3.8 Respiratory System

The respiratory system should be free from acute or chronic disease causing significant disability.

3.8.1 Acute Sinusitis - until resolved - category C.

3.8.2 Chronic Sinusitis - where disabling and frequently relapsing despite treatment - category E.

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3.8.3 Nasal Obstruction, septal abnormality or polypus - until satisfactorily treated - category C.

3.8.4 Throat Infections - a history of frequent sore throats or unhealthy tonsils with adenitis - until satisfactorily treated - category C.

3.8.5 Chronic Bronchitis or Emphysema - class depends on severity. Mild uncomplicated cases with good exercise tolerance may be - category A, but cases with recurrent illness causing significant disability in relation to the job should be - category E.

3.8.6 Bronchial Asthma - category C, for investigation. Where confirmed - category E subject to consideration of exceptions as follows -

- .1 a history of bronchial asthma resolving, without recurrence, before the age of 16 may be disregarded.
- .2 Well controlled asthma (confirmed by investigation and appropriate supporting evidence) treated with inhaled medication only and without a history of exacerbation requiring hospital admission or oral steroids, and subject to suitable follow up - category A (T) or E.

3.8.7 Occupational Asthma to avoid the allergen - category B.

3.8.8 Pneumothorax - All cases to be classified - category D for at least 12 months. With recurrences - category E.

3.9 Disease of the Digestive System

3.9.1 Diseases of the Oral Cavity

- .1 Mouth or gum infection until satisfactorily treated - category C.
- .2 Dental defects - until satisfactorily treated - category C. Seafarers should be dentally fit.

3.9.2 Diseases of the Oesophagus, Stomach and Duodenum

- .1.1 Peptic Ulceration - for investigation - category C.
- .1.2 Cases of proven ulceration should not return to seafaring until they are free from symptoms. There should also be evidence of healing on gastroscopy and the seafarer should have been on an ordinary diet, without treatment, for at least 3 months - category A (T).
- .1.3 Where there has been gastro-intestinal bleeding, perforation or recurrent peptic ulceration, in spite of maintenance H2 blocker treatment, or an unsatisfactory operation result - normally category E.
- .2 Recurrent attacks of Appendicitis - pending surgical removal - category C.
- .3 Non-Infective Enteritis and Colitis - severe or recurrent or requiring special diet - category E.

Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations

.4 Intestinal Stoma - category E.

3.9.3 Diseases of the Liver and Pancreas

.1 Cirrhosis of the Liver - for investigation - category C, then where condition is serious or progressive or where complications such as oesophageal varices or ascites are present - category E.

.2 Biliary Tract Diseases - after complete surgical cure - category A or A(T) on case assessment.

.3 Pancreatitis - recurrent pancreatitis and all cases where alcohol is an aetiological factor - category E.

3.10 Diseases of the Genito-urinary System

3.10.1 All cases of proteinuria, glycosuria or other urinary abnormalities should be referred for investigation.

3.10.2 Acute Nephritis - until resolved - category C.

3.10.3 Subacute or Chronic Nephritis or Nephrosis - for investigation - category C, then category B or E on case assessment.

3.10.4 Acute urinary infection - until satisfactorily treated - category C. Recurrent cases - category B unless full investigation has proved satisfactory.

3.10.5 Renal or Ureteric Calculus - for investigation and any necessary treatment - category C. An isolated attack of renal colic with passage of small calculus may be - category A after a period of observation, provided urine and renal function remain normal and there is no clinical and radiological evidence of other calculi. Recurrent stone formation - category E.

3.10.6 Urinary Obstruction B from any cause for investigation - category D, where not remediable - category E.

3.10.7 Removal of Kidney - in serving seafarers, provided remaining kidney is healthy with normal function - category A(T). Such cases may be unsuitable for service in the tropics or other conditions of high temperature, in which case - category B.

3.10.8 Renal Transplant - category E.

3.10.9 Incontinence of Urine for investigation - category C. Where irremediable - category E.

3.10.10 Enlarged Prostate for investigation - category C.

3.10.11 Hydrocoele - Small and symptomless - category A. Large or recurrent - category C or, where untreated - category E.

3.10.12 Abnormality of the Primary and Secondary Sexual Characteristics for investigation - category C, upon which final assessment will depend.

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3.11 Obstetrical and Gynaecological Conditions

3.11.1 There should be no persistent gynaecological disorder or disease affect working capacity at sea.

3.11.2 Pregnancy

.2.1 The doctor should discuss with the seafarer the implications of continuing to work at sea, particularly if it is a first pregnancy.

.2.2 A seafarer with a normal pregnancy before the 28th week may be permitted to work on short haul trips or a long haul trip on a vessel carrying a doctor - to allow for ante-natal care - category B.

.2.3 Employment shall not be permitted after the 28th week of pregnancy until at least 6 weeks after delivery.

3.11.3 Abnormal Pregnancy, on diagnosis - category D.

3.12 Skin

Special care is required in passing fit for care in the tropics where there is a history of skin trouble. Catering staff in particular should have no focus of skin sepsis.

Any condition liable to be aggravated by heat, sea air, oil, caustics or detergents or specific occupational allergens may be - category A(T), B, C, D or E on case assessment.

3.12.1 Infections of Skin

- .1 until satisfactorily treated category C.
- .2 Acne - Most cases - category A, but severe pustular cystic acne - category E.

3.12.2 Other Inflammatory Skin Conditions

- .1 Atopic Dermatitis and Related Conditions until satisfactorily treated - category C.
- .2 Contact Dermatitis. Refer for dermatological opinion - category C.
- .3 Acute Eczema. No seafarer should return to duty until skin is healthy - category C.
- .4 Recurrent Eczema of more than minimal extent - category E.
- .5 Psoriasis - category B. Most cases can be - category A, but some widespread or ulcerated cases should be - category C for treatment. Severe cases resistant to treatment, frequently relapsing or associated with joint disease - category E.

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3.13 Musculo-skeletal System

It is essential that seafarers should not have any defect of the musculo-skeletal system which might interfere with the discharge of their duties; muscular power, balance, mobility and co-ordination should be unimpaired.

3.13.1 Osteo-arthritis for assessment - category C.

Advanced cases where disability is present - category E.

3.13.2 Limb prosthesis normally would not be acceptable.

3.13.3 Back Pain - recurrent incapacitating back pain - category E.

3.13.4 Hernia

.1 Hernia until repaired - category C.

.2 Diaphragmatic Hernia - to be assessed according to the disability.

3.14 Speech Defects

3.14.1 Where likely to interfere with communication - category E.

3.15 Hearing

3.15.1 Acute and Chronic Otitis Externa - category C. Should be completely healed before returning to sea. Care is required for passing fit for tropics.

3.15.2 Acute Otitis Media - category C. Until satisfactorily treated.

3.15.3 Chronic Otitis Media - category C. May become category A or B after satisfactory treatment or surgery. Special care is required in passing fit for tropics, where air travel is required, or where the job requires food handling.

3.15.4 Loss of Hearing - category A; degree of impairment sufficient to interfere with communication - category E.

3.15.5 Unilateral Complete Loss of Hearing in serving seafarers - assessment of this condition should be considered in relation to the job.

3.15.6 A serving seafarer in whom impaired hearing acuity is found should be referred for full investigation by an ENT surgeon.

3.15.7 .1 Hearing Aids. The use of a satisfactory hearing aid at work by certain catering department personnel could be considered where not hearing an instruction would not result in a danger to the seafarer or others. The hearing aid should be sufficiently effective to allow communication at normal conversational tones.

.2 The use of a hearing aid by those working in, or associated with, the deck or engine room departments, including electricians and radio officers, should not be permitted.

Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations

SCHEDULE 4

(Regulation 8(6))

FORM OF NOTICE OF FAILURE TO MEET MEDICAL FITNESS STANDARDS FOR SEAFARERS

NOTICE OF FAILURE TO MEET MEDICAL FITNESS STANDARDS FOR SEAFARERS

TO:

Full Name.....

Seafarers Number.....

I have examined you in accordance with the standards of fitness for seafarers, as contained in the Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations and found that you are -

- † * A(T) Fit for full range of duties but for restricted period only
† * B Fit for restricted service only
† C Temporarily unfit for service: For review in(max. four) weeks.
† D Indefinitely unfit for sea service. For review in(max. six) months.
† E Permanently unfit for service

For the following reasons:
.....
.....

Official Stamp

Signed

Name

(Recognized duly qualified medical practitioner)

Date of Examination (dd/mm/yyyy)

- * Restrictions, where applicable, are to be detailed in the Medical Fitness Certificate
† delete whichever is not applicable

Note: Any application for review of the above decision must be lodged in writing on the prescribed form within one month of the date of the examination to Director or if the Director so directs, the Registrar.

Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations

SCHEDULE 5

(Regulation 9)

FORM OF MEDICAL FITNESS CERTIFICATE

MEDICAL FITNESS CERTIFICATE

ISSUED UNDER THE SHIPPING (MEDICAL FITNESS) REGULATIONS

Seafarer’s Name.....

Seafarer’s Number.....

Date of expiry of this Certificate (dd/mm/yyyy)

This certificate is valid for one year, from date of issue, for seafarers under eighteen years of age and for two years for seafarers eighteen years of age or over.

I certify that I have examined the seafarer named above to the Medical and Visual Standards for Seafarers as contained in the Schedules 1 and 3 of the above-named Regulations and have found *him or her fit for seafaring subject to the following restrictions: *Delete as appropriate

Restrictions:

Official Stamp

Signed

Name

(Recognized duly qualified medical practitioner)

Date of Examination (dd/mm/yyyy)

The original or certified copy of the physical report must accompany an application for a Seafarers Document/Certificate. A duplicate copy clearly labelled ‘certified copy’ on its face and initialled by the examining Medical Doctor must be maintained by the applicant as evidence of physical qualification while serving on board a vessel.

*Shipping (Medical Fitness) Regulations***SCHEDULE 6**

(Regulation 13(2))

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR REVIEW

APPLICATION FOR REVIEW OF:

ASSESSMENT

*Refuse to issue a Medical Certificate

*Impose Restriction on Medical Certificate

*Suspend or Cancel Medical Certificate

(Delete whichever is inapplicable)

I hereby apply for a review of the above decision and request that arrangements be made for me to be examined by an independent medical referee.

I agree that a report of my case may be submitted to the medical referee by the recognized duly qualified medical practitioner.

I understand that I am entitled to present any medical evidence available to me in support of my case and agree to any medical report prepared by the examining doctor being made available to the medical referee.

Signed

(Name in block letters)

Address.....

Telephone No.

NOTE. Before lodging an appeal you are advised to consult your usual medical practitioner and, should you wish to submit medical evidence in support of the appeal, you should arrange for this to be sent to the medical referee before the appointment date.

You will be advised of the name and address of the referee and the date for your appointment as soon as this has been arranged.

Made this 29th day of June, 2016.

STEPHENSON KING,
Minister responsible for shipping.