

# Isle of Man Ship Registry Maritime Labour Notice



## Medical Certificates

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### **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 to ensure the certificates meet the minimum requirements as stated in this MLN. There is no longer a requirement for medical certificates to be sent with Endorsement Applications.

### **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**

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.

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 Certificate**

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.

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.

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.

*Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.*

