



The Bahamas Maritime Authority

BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 103

SEAFARERS MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AND CERTIFICATES

Guidance and Instructions for Ship-owners, Managers, Masters, Bahamas Recognised Organisations and Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors

This Bulletin replaces BMA Information Bulletin.27.

1 Issue of Certificates

The BMA will accept Seafarers Medical Certificates issued by

- medical practitioners in The Bahamas
- medical practitioners approved by the Administration of a country with whom the Bahamas has a Reciprocal Recognition Agreement (see BMA Information Bulletin.108, Annex 3)
- medical practitioners approved by the Administration of the country of the seafarer's origin
- an approved medical practitioner (as above) especially appointed by the Company for this purpose

2 Company Responsibilities

The term "company" will have the same definition as given in the STCW Convention and ISM Code. The above list does not mean that the Company has to accept certificates acceptable to BMA only. According to STCW Regulation I/14, it is the responsibility of the Company to ensure that every seafarer employed by them is medically fit. The Company may therefore require the seafarer to be tested by an approved medical practitioner of the Company's choice, despite the seafarer having a certificate issued by a medical practitioner acceptable to the BMA, as listed above.

3 The Seafarers Medical Certificate must include the following minimum information

- a title to signify that it is a “Seafarer’s Medical Certificate”
- reference to STCW Regulation I/9 or ILO-73 (1946) or ILO-147 (1976) or ILO Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC-06) or ILO/WHO/D.2/1997 “Guidance for conducting Medical Fitness Examination for Seafarers”
- reference to approval by the Administration (where applicable)
- seafarer’s name, nationality and date of birth
- passport number or Seaman’s Book number
- “Fit” or “Unfit” with remarks specifying any limitations/ restrictions
- certifying medical practitioners name, signature, registration number (a seal or stamp is preferable)
- date of issue

4. Period of validity

Provided the seafarer does not develop any medical condition that may render the medical certificate invalid, the certificate shall remain valid for a period of 5 years (from the date of issue) in the case of seafarers aged between 16 and 39; and 2 years for seafarers over the age of 40.