



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: Medical Certifications Models and Standards

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

1. The purpose of the current 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. 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.
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.

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| <i>Prepared by: Translator</i> | <i>Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief</i> | <i>Approved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i> |
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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. 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.

December, 2012

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

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