



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE

MSN 1815 (M)

Countries whose Seafarer Medical Certificates are accepted as equivalent to the UK Seafarer Medical Certificate (ENG1) from 1 July 2007

Notice to all Shipowners, Agents, Masters, Seafarers, MCA Approved Medical Practitioners and Approved Medical Referees.

This Notice replaces the list published in MSN 1798 (M). It should be read in conjunction with MSN 1765 (M)

Summary

This Notice is effective from 1 July 2007 and lists the countries whose seafarer medical certificates are accepted as equivalent to the UK ENG1 medical certificate. This Notice replaces the list published in MSN 1798(M).

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Medical Examination) Regulations 2002 as amended, make it a legal requirement for any seafarer (as defined in the Regulations), to hold a valid certificate attesting to their medical fitness for the work for which they are employed.
- 1.2 The requirement for a medical fitness certificate does not apply to anyone employed on a fishing vessel, a non commercial pleasure vessel, an offshore installation while on its working station, or to those specified in paragraph 2.2.2 of MSN 1765(M).

2.0 Acceptable Medical Fitness Certificates

- 2.1 The following certificates are acceptable for seafarers on sea-going United Kingdom ships (as defined in the Regulations):
- (i) a UK seafarer medical certificate (known as an ENG1) issued in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations by an MCA approved medical practitioner (known as an approved doctor), listed in a Merchant Shipping Notice, (currently MSN 1814 (M)); or
 - (ii) a valid national seafarer medical certificate issued in accordance with the requirements of the Maritime Authority of any country listed in Annex A of this Notice. The certificate is one which would normally be issued to a national of that country, by a doctor approved by the Maritime Authority of that country, wherever he/she may be located. It does not entitle these doctors to issue UK seafarer medical certificates (ENG1s).

2.2 In order to obtain an equivalent medical certificate from one of the countries listed in Annex A, the Maritime Authority of the respective country should be contacted, to direct the seafarer to a doctor authorised by their authority to conduct seafarer medical examinations.

2.3 As a standard for working on a UK ship, it is expected that the equivalent medical certificate has an English translation in order for the Master of the ship and / or any Inspectors / Surveyors who may wish to sight the medical certificate to be able to identify any restrictions to the duties for the voyage for which they are embarked.

Further countries may be added to this list as and when their standards have been assessed for equivalency.

3.0 Further Information

3.1 The list is also available on the MCA's webpage at:

www.mcga.gov.uk/seafarer_information/health_and_safety/seafarer_medical_information

and is updated whenever any new country is assessed and accepted as equivalent.

More Information

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COUNTRIES WHOSE SEAFARER MEDICAL CERTIFICATES ARE ACCEPTED AS EQUIVALENT TO THE UK MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

The following are countries whose **national** seafarer medical certificates are accepted as equivalent to the UK's ENG 1 medical certificate. It does **not** authorise doctors from these countries to issue ENG 1 certificates.

Australia	Jamaica
Austria*	Latvia*
Belgium*	Lithuania*
Bulgaria*	Luxembourg*
Canada	Malta*
Croatia	Mauritius
Cyprus*	Netherlands*
Czech Republic*	New Zealand
Denmark*	Norway**
Estonia*	Pakistan
Finland*	Poland*
France*	Portugal*
Germany*	Romania
Greece*	Slovakia*
Hong Kong	Slovenia*
Hungary*	South Africa
Iceland**	Spain*
India	Sri Lanka
Ireland (Republic of)*	Sweden*
Italy*	Ukraine

* EU Member States

** EEA (European Economic Area) States

This list reflects the Merchant Shipping (Medical Examination) Regulations as amended, which came into effect on 1 September 2002. Medical certificates issued by countries previously recognised as equivalent before 1 September 2002 will be acceptable until the date of expiry.

Further countries may be added to the list as and when medical standards and systems have been assessed for equivalency.

Any queries relating to this list should be directed to:

MCA's Seafarer Health and Safety Branch

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