



Circular N^o CH 44-3 (Rev. 2)

To: All Shipowners of Swiss flagged Vessels, Masters and Recognized Organizations

Sub.: Standards of medical examinations and certification of seafarers in accordance with the provisions of STCW Regulation I/9 and STCW Code Section A-I/9

- Ref.**
- a) **STCW Convention 1978, as amended Regulation I/9**
 - b) **STCW Code Sections A-I/9 and B-I/9**
 - c) **Swiss Maritime Statute (Navigation Act, SMS) Art.62 / Ordinance implementing the Federal Law on Navigation under the Swiss Flag (Navigation Ordinance, SMO) Art.17 - 19**
 - d) **ILO/IMO/JMS/2011/12 Guidelines on the medical examination of seafarers 2011**

PURPOSE:

The 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention 1978 as amended require specific consideration with respect to the standards of medical examinations and certification of seafarers.

APPLICABILITY:

This Circular applies to all shipowners and operators of Swiss Flag commercial ships and seafarers employed on vessels flying the Swiss Flag.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Recognition of medical examinations by the Swiss Maritime Administration

- 1.1. The Swiss Maritime Administration recognizes the medical examinations of seafarers by: Arbeitsmedizinisches Zentrum Basel, azb AG.
- 1.2. Medical examinations can only be carried out at the facilities of azb AG in Pratteln and Basel, following is the single point of contact for appointments:

Arbeitsmedizinisches Zentrum Basel
azb AG
Düngerstrasse 81
CH-4133 Pratteln
Switzerland
Phone: +41 61 821 82 60
Fax: +41 61 821 82 61
Email: info@azbasel.com
Internet: www.azbasel.com

- 1.3. The Swiss Maritime Administration may recognize the medical certificates issued by foreign medical practitioners according to the provisions of STCW Regulation I/9. Medical practitioners shall be approved for the medical examination of seafarers by the Administration of their country of residence which shall be a Party to the Convention and listed on the STCW White List.
- 1.4. Information about the recognized medical practitioners, point of contact and information about the medical examination shall be made available online on the website of the Swiss Maritime Administration (www.smno.ch).
- 1.5. In accordance with STCW Code Section A-I/9 Paragraph 6 and Art.19 Paragraph 2 of the Navigation Ordinance, the Swiss Maritime Administration may, in case of appeal, designate a medical practitioner recognized by the Federal Office of Transport for the medical examination of candidates who, after examination, do not meet the medical fitness or have had limitation imposed on their ability to work.

2. Standards for medical certificates

- 2.1. The standards for the medical examination shall be in accordance with the provisions of STCW Regulation I/9 and STCW Code Section A-I/9. They adhere to the table "Minimum in-service eyesight standards of seafarers" of STCW Code Section A-I /9, the standards of physical and medical fitness of STCW Code Section A-I/9 paragraph 2 and take into account the guidance as set out in the STCW Code Section B-I/9. The form for the medical examination shall be in accordance with the latest requirements of IMO/ILO/WHO.
- 2.2. Candidates for certification shall be at least 16 years of age, provide satisfactory proof of his/her identity and meet the applicable medical fitness standards established in accordance with the latest requirements of IMO/ILO/WHO.
- 2.3. Medical certificates shall be valid for a maximum period of 2 years, for seafarers under the age of 18 for a maximum period of 1 year.
- 2.4. On employment, medical certificates shall have an expiration date later than the latest intended disembarkation date of the contract of employment.
- 2.5. If the period of validity of a medical certificate expires in the course of a voyage, then the medical certificate shall continue in force until the next port of call where a medical practitioner can conduct a medical examination and issue a medical certificate according to paragraph 1.3. of this document, provided that the period shall not exceed 3 months.
- 2.6. In urgent cases the Swiss Maritime Administration may permit a seafarer without a valid medical certificate to work on board a vessel under the Swiss Flag with the restriction that:
 - .1 The period of permission shall not exceed 3 months.
 - .2 The seafarer shall be in possession of an expired medical certificate of recent date.

3. Requirement of a valid medical certificate in accordance with STCW Regulation I/9 for the issuance, revalidation and endorsement of certificates

- 3.1. Seafarers applying for the endorsement attesting the recognition of a foreign certificate by the Swiss Maritime Administration with validity later than 01 January 2017, shall hold a valid medical certificate issued in accordance with STCW Regulation I/9 by a medical practitioner recognized by the Administration of the adequate country of residence. The country shall be party to the Convention and listed on the STCW White List.

Consideration: Any certificate issued, revalidated or endorsed in conjunction with a medical certificate issued according to the rules of the STCW 95 Amendments shall be limited in validity until 31 December 2016.

- 3.2. Swiss seafarers applying for revalidation and endorsement of a Swiss Certificate of Competency (CoC) shall hold a valid medical certificate in accordance with Regulation I/9 and Section A-I/9 of the STCW Convention 1978 as amended 2010 and the Maritime Labour Convention 2006, issued in accordance with paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 of this document.

Swiss Maritime Navigation Office SMNO

p.p.



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