



Virgin Islands Shipping Registry

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MEDICAL FITNESS CERTIFICATES

MARINE CIRCULAR No. 02 - 2024

SEAFARER MEDICAL FITNESS CERTIFICATES

In accordance with the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Regulations 2019, all seafarers serving on British Virgin Islands ships are required to hold a valid medical certificate.

BVI Administration requires a UK ENG 1 seafarer medical fitness certificate, issued in accordance with the provisions of the MLC Regulations or the WIFC Regulations, by an MCA Approved Doctor listed on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/seafarers-medical-certification-guidance>

Acceptable Medical Fitness Certificate

Medical certificates issued by, or on behalf of, a country listed on the “STCW Whitelist” (the latest revision of IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ. 1163 refers) or a country which has ratified the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 are accepted for service on British Virgin Islands. Such certificates should be issued in accordance Regulation I/9 of the STCW Convention.

Accepted countries are listed in Annex 1 of UK Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN)1815 as amended:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/608bd54dd3bf7f01308d9c5b/MSN_1815_Amendment_6.pdf

Medical certificates should clearly state that they are issued by, or on behalf of, the Governments of the above countries. It is insufficient to hold a certificate issued by a doctor residing in the above countries if the certificate is not issued, by or on behalf of, the Government of that country.

Medical certificates should state that the seafarer meets the minimum in-service eyesight standards for seafarers contained in Table A-I/9 of the STCW Code, noting that colour vision assessment only needs to be conducted every six years.

Medical Fitness Certification for Boatmaster Licensing

For Boatmaster Licencing the BVI Administration requires that the medical examination should be carried out by an approved medical practitioner in The British Virgin Islands. For this purpose, the medical practitioner must hold a valid medical approval certificate issued by the BVI Medical Council (BVIMC). A Medical Report (VISR Form) would be applicable; a blank available to download from the BVI Administration’s website.

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