



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE

MSN 1798 (M)

Countries whose Medical Certificates are Accepted as equivalent to the UK Medical Certificate from 1 April 2006

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

This Notice replaces the list published in Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1788 (M). It should be read in conjunction with MSN 1765 (M).

Summary

This Notice is effective from the 1 April 2006 and replaces the list published in MSN 1788 (M). It is re-issued annually to reflect any new countries added to the list.

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 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 annually in a Merchant Shipping Notice, (currently MSN 1797(M)); or
 - (ii) a valid national seafarer medical certificate issued by 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 that country, wherever he/she may be located. It does not entitle these doctors to issue UK medical certificates.

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

3.0 Further Information

3.1 This Notice will be updated and re-issued annually. The list is also available on the MCA's webpage at:

[www.mcga.gov.uk/seafarer information/health and safety/seafarer medical information](http://www.mcga.gov.uk/seafarer%20information/health%20and%20safety/seafarer%20medical%20information)

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

More Information

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File Ref: MC 018/003/0096

Published: May 2006

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Printed on material containing minimum 75% post-consumer waste paper



*An executive agency of the
Department for
Transport*

COUNTRIES WHOSE 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*	Netherlands*
Cyprus*	New Zealand
Czech Republic*	Norway**
Denmark*	Pakistan
Estonia*	Poland*
Finland*	Portugal*
France*	Romania
Germany*	Slovakia*
Greece*	Slovenia*
Hong Kong	South Africa
Hungary*	Spain*
Iceland**	Sri Lanka
India	Sweden*
Ireland (Republic of)*	Ukraine
Italy*	

* EU Member States

** EEA (European Economic Area) States

This list reflects the Merchant Shipping (Medical Examination) Regulations as amended, which came into effect on the 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 will 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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