

## **Explanation concerning the Dutch Seafarer Medical Certificate (SMC)**

### **Seafarer classification of occupation(s)**

Four categories of seafarers are determined.

- Seafarers with look-out or watch duties on the bridge
- Seafarers with watch duties in the engine room
- Seafarers without look-out or watch duties, but with safety and/or security duties
- Seafarers without above mentioned duties

The first three categories must comply with both STCW-standards and the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC). The fourth category concerns seafarers without look-out, watch, safety and security duties. This category does not need to comply with STCW. They only need to comply with MLC regulations.

### **Hierarchy of medical standards**

The medical standards of the upper category, the seafarer with look-out duties or watch duties on the bridge are the most strict. This means that a seafarer who complies with these standards automatically complies with the standards for the other categories. In case a seafarer sometimes works as a mate and sometimes as an engineer he/she needs a seafarer medical certificate for the category with look-out or watch duties on the bridge. In these cases it is allowed to tick both items: seafarers with look-out or watch duties on the bridge and in the engine room.

It's also possible that a seafarer receives a certificate which is issued for both category three and four. In this case box three and four are ticked

### **Limitations on validity**

When the examinee meets the standards determined in the final column of appendix E of the *ILO/IMO Guidelines on the medical examination of seafarers*, and there is no medical indication for a limited period of validity, 'Until 2 years after the date of issue' and 'Worldwide' may be ticked. Limiting conditions may concern:

- a) Limitation in time: tick third box 'Period of validity'(Limited period otherwise), followed by the period in months. Fill out date of expiry appropriately.
- b) Area of validity: tick second box 'Limited area' and note restriction in miles off coast and/or specific area. I.E.: 'Within 30 miles of the Dutch coast' or 'Limited to The North Sea'.
- c) Limitation on duties: under 'Limitations on fitness', note as required. I.E.: 'No solo watch keeping'.
- d) Medical aids: under 'Limitations on fitness', note as required. I.E.: 'Hearing aids are to be used in both ears'.

### **Judgement medical fitness seafarer under STCW-Convention**

For the first two categories of seafarers (with watch duties) the complete left column should be filled in, tick either yes or no.

In case of a seafarer without look-out or watch duties, but with safety and/or security duties (category three) only the first three items of the left column (hearing, unaided hearing and visual acuity) should be filled in. The last three items (colour vision, date of last colour vision test and fit for look-out duties) are not applicable so for these items the right column should be filled in. Testing of colour vision is only required for those with look-out or watch duties (either bridge or engine room, category 1 and 2). Colour vision should be tested every six years. The date of testing must be copied to the next certificate, unless the six years' period expires during the date of validity of the new certificate, in which case the colour vision test should be repeated.

In case of a seafarer without look-out or watch duties and without safety and/or security duties (category four) the right column should be filled in because all these items are not applicable.

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