

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Alaska Marine Highway System

TO: All Vessel Crew Members

DATE: December 29, 2014

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FROM: Amy Wilson
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SUBJECT: New STCW Requirements
for Medical Certificates

The purpose of this memo is to advise AMHS Mariners of the new requirement to hold a current U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Medical Certificate. Medical Certificates are valid through the STCW date indicated on the certificate only, i.e., a period of two (2) years. While there is a National Expiration Date indicated on the certificate, AMHS will consider only the STCW Expiration Date.

In order to qualify for the medical certificate with the STCW Expiration Date, Mariners must have the STCW Endorsement Page in their Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC). In turn, Mariners must have a valid Medical Certificate to obtain/maintain STCW endorsements and ratings (indicated on the STCW Page(s) of the MMC). AMHS Mariners are required to send in a copy of their current Medical Certificate to the AMHS Training Department for entry to their Dispatch/Training records.

Introduction U.S. Coast Guard Medical Certificates: The Medical Certificate is a separate document that you must carry with your MMC. Mariners holding STCW Endorsements to their MMC should have received a Medical Certificate in April of 2014. Mariners who have not received a Medical Certificate need to apply for one. The USCG does not charge for the Medical Certificate application.

As per USCG NVIC 01-14 – Jan. 2014 “Once it is issued, mariners are required to carry a valid Medical Certificate in order to sail under the authority of their MMC 46 CFR 15.401 (d)”.

Medical Certificate and STCW Explained: The Medical Certificate is a new document that serves as proof to the USCG that a mariner meets required regulatory medical and physical standards. The Medical Certificate is part of the 2010 Amendments to the STCW Convention and U.S. regulations.

As per USCG NVIC 01-14 – Jan. 2014 “A mariner may not serve under the authority of their STCW endorsement without holding a valid medical certificate 46 CFR 15.401 (c) (1)”. NVIC 01-14 17 Jan 2014.


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Medical Certificate Application Process: To apply for the free Medical Certificate, submit the CG-719K Physical Examination Form (officers and ratings above Lifeboatman) or CG-719K/E Entry-Level Physical (entry level mariners – Steward/Wiper/OS with Lifeboatman) to your local USCG Regional Exam Center (REC).

Keeping Medical Certificates Current with STCW: The Medical Certificate is valid for two (2) years; look for the STCW Expiration Date shown on the certificate under the Seafarer Name and Gender (See Figure 1).

The USCG Medical Certificate's STCW Expiration Date is tracked by AMHS in each Crew Member's Dispatch/Training records. AMHS complies with STCW regulation. In order to maintain Crew Members' STCW endorsements; e.g. Basic (Safety) Training, Proficiency in Survival Craft, etc. the Medical Certificate must be kept current. Therefore, **physicals must be submitted to your local USCG REC approximately every two (2) years to maintain currency.**

Figure 1 – Medical Certificate



United States Coast Guard
Medical Certificate

Seafarer Name: **MERCHANTMARINER, VERSION7534 NATIONAL**
Gender: **Male** Nationality: **US** DOB: **01-OCT-1991**
STCW Exp Date: **01-OCT-2014** National Exp Date: **01-OCT-2014** Pilot Exp Date: **01-OCT-2014**

**STCW Expiration Date:
Valid for 2 Years**

JEFFREY P. NOVOTNY, CAPT, USCG
OFFICER IN CHARGE, MARINE INSPECTION

SEAFARER SIGNATURE

CN 0000051 Ref Num: 3506824

v DO NOT DETACH v
^ DO NOT DETACH ^

* Mariner is free from any medical condition likely to be aggravated by service at sea or to render the seafarer unfit for such service or to endanger the health of other persons on board.

* Date of Examination:	01-OCT-2013
* Last Color Vision Test Date:	07-AUG-2013
* Hearing IAW STCW A-I/9:	Y
* Visual Acuity IAW STCW A-I/9:	Y
* Color Vision IAW STCW A-I/9:	Y
* Fit for Look-out duties:	Y
* Unaided Hearing Satisfactory:	Y
* Identification Checked at Examination:	Y

* No Limitations/Restrictions: N
1) Corrective lenses required

CN 0000051 CG-4610A (Rev. 05/12) Ref Num: 3506824

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Medical Certificates: The Medical Certificate folds in half. It is to be placed in the plastic sleeve located in the back of the MMC. It is not to be taped, glued, laminated, peeled, or detached.

USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) Information: Information about the Medical Certificates including links to the CG 719 K or 719 KE Forms is posted on the USCG NMC website http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/medical/medical_cert.asp (See Figure 2 below).

Figure 2 – USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) Medical Certificate

The screenshot shows the USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) website page for Medical Certificate Qualification Criteria. The page is divided into a left navigation menu and a main content area. Two red arrows point from the navigation menu to the main content area.

Navigation Menu:

- Code of Federal Regulations
 - > §10 Merchant Mariner Credential
- Policy/Reference
 - > NVIC 04-08
- USCG Forms 719K and 719KE**
 - > Physical Examination Checklist
- Forms
 - > CG-719K Physical Examination Form
 - > CG-719KE Entry-Level Physical Examination Form
- Helpful Links
 - > Medical Brochure
- STCW
 - > STCW Endorsements
- Information on Final Rule
 - > Federal Register

Main Content Area: Medical Certificate Qualification Criteria

What is it?	How does it affect me?	What do I do with it?	Employer Impact?	Is there a cost?	How Do I Apply?	Expiration/Exam dates?	Medical Waivers?
<p>What is the Medical Certificate?</p> <p>The medical certificate is a new document that serves as proof that a mariner meets the required medical and physical standards, per the publication of the Federal Register (FR). This FR incorporates the 2010 Amendments to the STCW Convention into the U.S. regulations. It also makes other necessary changes to our national regulations for the purposes of reorganization, clarification and needed updates.</p> <p>The medical certificate is the Coast Guard's authorization that a mariner has met the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the physical capability to fulfill all the requirements of basic training as required by Section A -VI/1 of STCW; • Demonstrate adequate hearing and speech to communicate effectively and detect any audible alarms; • Have no medical condition, disorder or impairment that will prevent the effective and safe conduct of the seafarer's routine and emergency duties; • Are not suffering from any medical condition likely to be aggravated by service at sea or to render the seafarer unfit for service or to endanger the health and safety of other personnel on board; • Are not taking medication that has side effects that will impair judgment, balance or any other requirements for effective and safe performance of routine and emergency duties on board. 							

Summary: Medical Certificates must be kept with the Merchant Mariners Credential (MMC). Medical Certificates are valid for the two years; refer to the STCW expiration date on the certificate.

AMHS Mariners must have a current Medical Certificate on file at the AMHS Ketchikan Central Office (KCO) to ensure eligibility for dispatches to all vessels. Submit copies of valid Medical Certificates to the AMHS Training Department.

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