



NIUE SHIP REGISTRY

Website: www.niueship.com

GUIDANCE ON MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AND CERTIFICATES FOR SEAFARERS (Circular NMC7.2012 (rev0))

PURPOSE: To promulgate the Guidelines on the Medical Examination of Seafarers developed jointly by the IMO and ILO through IMO Circular STCW.7/Circ.19/Rev.1 dated 05 September 2018 which provides guidance to medical practitioners authorized to carry out medical examinations and issue medical certificates for seafarers. Companies certified as SRPS (Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Service(s)) and seafarers are encouraged to provide a copy of this document to their medical examiner prior to, and for use during, medical examinations.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. IMO Circular STCW.7/Circ.19/Rev.1 – Guidelines on the Medical Examination of Seafarers, dated 05 September 2018
2. Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC2006)

APPLICATION:

This marine circular applies to all seafarers employed on Niue flagged ships.

CONTENTS:

A. MEDICAL EXAMINATION

1. Seafarers applying for employment should generally undergo a medical examination to obtain a valid MC as proof of medical fitness for duty 12 months prior to employment, and normally every 2 years thereafter, unless a shorter time is specified for specific reasons, duties or if required by STCW.
2. Notwithstanding the above, seafarers under the age of 18 will require medical examinations to be carried out annually.
3. The scope of the medical examination for both pre-sea and periodic assessments is identical.

B. MEDICAL CERTIFICATE (MC)

1. MCs should specifically indicate that the seafarer was examined on his/her hearing, vision and general physical and mental condition and should be signed by both the medical examiner and seafarer.
2. Niue Ship Registry (NSR) has a standard format for MCs "Form NMED" which can be downloaded at: <https://niueship.com/form>
3. A "Form NMED" completed by a recognized medical examiner, and MCs issued in accordance to STCW requirements are recognised as meeting the requirements of MLC Regulation 1.2.
4. A newly hired seafarer may work without a valid MC and obtain it at the next port of call in urgent cases, however, this arrangement shall not exceed 3 months and the seafarer concerned should already hold a MC that has not expired beyond 6 months.

C. RESULTS OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION

1. A medical examiner may use "Form NMED", or any official form of a country party to the MLC 2006 or STCW, to issue a MC to a seafarer who is found fit for the work to be performed.
2. If the medical examiner imposes restrictions on the job the seafarer may perform, the trading area, or time-limit, etc., then these restrictions need be reflected on the MC.

3. A medical examiner should provide seafarers who have been found unfit for service, whether on a temporary or permanent basis, an explanation of the reasons, advise appropriate actions that the seafarer may need to take (e.g. carry out additional tests for a specialist opinion, attend treatment, rehabilitation or appropriate medical care), as well inform the seafarer on the rights and procedures to file an appeal.
4. Where a seafarer's "Form NMED" is received by NSR, it shall serve as the seafarer's informed consent to Niue to disclose its contents in any regard.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Registry at technical@niueship.com or call: +65 6226-2001 for further assistance.