



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE

MSN 1815 (M+F) Amendment 3

Countries whose Seafarer Medical Certificates are Accepted as Equivalent to the UK Seafarer Medical Fitness Certificate (ENG 1)

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

This notice should be read with the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Medical Certification) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/737), the Merchant Shipping (Work in Fishing Convention) (Medical Certification) Regulations 2018 and Merchant Shipping Notices MSN 1883 (F), MSN 1886 (M+F) and MSN 1887(M).

This Notice updates and replaces MSN 1815 (M) Amendment 2

Summary

This Notice lists the countries whose seafarer medical fitness certificates are accepted as equivalent to the UK ENG 1 medical fitness certificate and is now applicable to both seafarers and fishermen.

Please note the Bermuda Maritime Authority (Carnival UK and Princess Cruises doctors only) seafarer medical certificate and the China MSA seafarer medical certificate have been added to the list of countries.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Medical Certification) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/737) (the “MLC Regulations”) and the Merchant Shipping (Work in Fishing Convention) (Medical Certification) Regulations 2018 (“the WIFC Regulations”) make it a legal requirement for seafarers to hold a valid certificate attesting to their medical fitness for the work for which they are employed.



1.2 The requirement for a seafarer medical fitness certificate, known, as ENG 1, does not apply to anyone employed on non-commercial pleasure vessels or offshore installations whilst on their working stations. The Medical Certification Regulations also do not apply to merchant vessels operating solely in inland waterways (waters of categories A, B, C or D) although the master of an inland waterway vessel will need to demonstrate medical fitness in order to obtain their master's qualification. (The Fishing Regulations apply to all fishing vessels, defined as catching sea fish commercially.)

2. Acceptable Medical Fitness Certificate

2.1 The following certificates are acceptable for those working on United Kingdom vessels:

(a) a UK seafarer medical fitness certificate, an ENG 1, issued in accordance with the provisions of the MLC Regulations or the WIFC Regulations, by an MCA Approved Doctor listed on GOV.UK

(b) a valid national seafarer medical certificate issued in accordance with requirements of the Maritime Authority of any country listed in Annex 1 of this Notice. The certificate is one which normally is issued to a national of that country, by a Doctor approved by the Maritime Authority of that country, wherever they may be located. It **does not** entitle these doctors to issue the UK ENG 1 medical fitness certificate.

2.2 In order to obtain an equivalent medical certificate from one of the countries listed in Annex 1, the Maritime Authority of the respective country should be contacted, to direct the seafarer to a doctor authorised by their authority to conduct seafarer medical examinations.

2.3 As a standard for working on a UK vessel, it is expected that the equivalent medical certificate has an English translation, in order for the Master of the vessel and/or any Surveyor/Inspector who may wish to check the medical certificate to identify any restrictions to the duties for the voyage for which they are embarked.

2.4 Further countries may be added to the list when their standards have been assessed for equivalency.

More Information

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Countries whose Seafarer Medical Certificates are Accepted as Equivalent to the UK Seafarer Medical Certificate (ENG 1)

The following are the countries whose national seafarer medical certificates are accepted as equivalent to the UK's ENG 1 Seafarer Medical Fitness Certificate. It **does not** authorise doctors from these countries to issue ENG 1 seafarer medical fitness certificates.

European Union and European Economic States	Rest of the World
Belgium	Australia
Bulgaria	Bermuda (Note 1)
Croatia	Canada
Cyprus	China
Czech Republic	Hong Kong
Denmark (Note 2)	(Special Administrative Region of the Peoples Republic of China)
Estonia	India
Finland	Jamaica
France	Mauritius
Germany	New Zealand
Greece	Pakistan
Hungary	South Africa
Iceland	Sri Lanka
Ireland	Ukraine
Italy	
Latvia	
Lithuania	
Luxembourg	
Malta (Note 3)	
Netherlands	
Norway	
Poland	
Portugal	
Romania	
Slovakia	
Slovenia	
Spain	
Sweden	

Please note that the administrations of Austria and Luxembourg do not appear in the list of EU countries, as they have informed the MCA that they do not have seafarer medical examination systems.

Notes:

1. The Bermuda Maritime Authority seafarer medical certificate is only acceptable if issued by a doctor appointed for Carnival UK or Princess Cruises. Medical certificates issued by these doctors are valid (until expiry/unless otherwise invalidated) even if the seafarer leaves the company.



2. The Danish seafarers' medical fitness certificate is only valid with a completed booklet 'Health Certificate for Seafarers and Fishermen', issued by the Danish Maritime Authority.

3. The Malta Maritime Authority has confirmed that the list of duly qualified medical practitioners available in Malta for seafarer medical certificates is the list officially issued by the Malta Medical Council (see below link) which is the official Authority responsible for issuing licences to medical practitioners in Malta's territory.

<http://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/regcounc/medicalcouncil/Documents/registers/mcdocsfull.pdf>

Please note that a Malta seafarer medical certificate will only be accepted as equivalent to the UK ENG 1 medical certificate if it was completed by a qualified medical practitioner licenced by the Malta Medical Council (see link) and the seafarer medical examination was conducted in Malta's territory. No Maltese seafarer medical certificates issued outside Malta's territory will be accepted. However, from the date of publication of this notice, there will be a grace period of 3 months to allow seafarers already holding such certificates to obtain acceptable medical certificates as listed in this notice.

