



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

Merchant Shipping Notice 10 of 2024

File No: 25-17011/173/2021-NT - DGS (C-No/14294)

Date: 31.05.2024

Sub: Addendum-1 to the MS notice no 08 of 2023- Amendment to the procedure for approval of Medical Examiner of Seafarers as per rule 4 of MS Medical Examination Rules 2000-reg

This Directorate vide MS Notice 08 of 2023, had revised the parameters for all future approval of medical examiners of seafarers, as per the provisions of the M.S. Medical Examination Rules 2000, and in continuation of the M.S. Notice 01 of 2015.

Whereas this Directorate has received grievances from the Medical Examiners of Seafarers for:

- Prescribing ownership of clinic/premises by Medical Examiners [clause 5(b) of Notice 08 of 2023]
- Prescribing an upper age limit for the Examiners presently empanelled with this Directorate [clause 5(h) of Notice 08 of 2023]

In order to assess the validity of the grievances, a virtual meeting of all the industry stakeholders was held on 2nd May 2024 wherein large number of medical examiners from across the country participated. In view of valid submissions made in the meeting, it was unanimously decided that there should be no age bar for Medical Examiners empanelled as on date of issuance of MS notice 08 of 2023.

In view of the same, this addendum is being issued by this Directorate, which shall be read with Merchant Shipping Notice No. 08 of 2023 dated 4th July 2023.

Additional provisions to be complied with are as follows:

Whereas the prescribed clause 5(b) of Notice 08 of 2023 mandates “a doctor having his own clinic/hospital with basic minimum infrastructure requirement, i.e. waiting area for seafarer, examining room, testing lab, collection of blood and urine sample etc. as per the guideline of MS Medical Examination Rules 2000”

b1. The above paragraph may include the new provisions as below for the doctor not having their own clinic and working with other clinic and hospital:

- a) A doctor employed by a clinic or hospital, upon presentation of a valid appointment letter from the respective clinic or hospital OR a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a clinic or hospital, along with a “No Objection Certificate” (NOC) issued by the clinic or hospital, is authorized to conduct medical fitness examinations for seafarers in the said place;
- b) A doctor who has entered into a partnership with a clinic or hospital may present a partnership agreement, appointment letter or authorization letter, and an NOC from the management of the clinic or hospital as acceptable documentation to conduct medical fitness examination for seafarers in the said place.
- c) The number of approved medical examiners in any clinic or hospital should be limited to a maximum of 02(Two).

b2. Approved doctors are obligated to conduct examinations of seafarers exclusively at the address provided to the Directorate General of Shipping at the time of their application for approval as medical examiners.

b3. Approval will be revoked if a doctor is found to be examining seafarers at any address other than the one registered with the Directorate General of Shipping and displayed on its official portal.

b4. In the event of a change of address, the doctor must obtain approval from the office of the Directorate General of Shipping prior commencing the services in the new address in adherence to the provisions outlined in clause b1 (a, b, and c) and clause 5(e) of Notice 08 of 2023.

b5. The owner of the clinic and/or hospital shall notify the Directorate within one (1) month of the departure of any doctor from the clinic or hospital.

b6. The approved doctor, along with the associated laboratory, will be held responsible for any disputes or issues arising from the issuance of the Medical Fitness Certificate.

Whereas the prescribed clause 5(g) and 5(h) of Notice 08 of 2023 establishes an upper age limit for the examiners currently empaneled with this Directorate, the following revised provisions are to be complied with:

h1. The upper age limit of 70 years for renewal of approval shall not be applicable to the medical examiners of seafarers who were or are empanelled with this Directorate as on the date of issuance of this Notice. However, beyond 70 years they are required to submit only a medical fitness certificate annually from a government approved hospital failing which the approval shall be withdrawn / suspended.

h2. No upper age limit shall be prescribed for the renewal of approval by this Directorate for existing Medical Examiners.

h3. Any Medical Examiner who has been adversely affected by clause 5(h) of MS Notice 08 of 2023 shall, however, be continued on the panel of this Directorate without any age bar, subject to providing a "Certificate of Good Standing" from the appropriate medical council. These doctors need to apply to the directorate for empanelment by fulfilling all requirements and guidelines prescribed by the directorate.

h4. The validity period of approval on the panel of the Directorate General of Shipping shall be for a duration of five years from the date of completion of the Familiarization/Refresher Course, or until the expiration of registration with the appropriate medical council or upon attaining the age of 75 years whichever occurs earlier.

h5. Beyond 75 years of age, the approval for the medical examiner will be renewed on an annual basis, subject to the submission of a fitness certificate from a government approved hospital after the completion of 75 years, and subject to the satisfactory biennial (once in two year) audit of the clinic and the doctor by the Jurisdictional Mercantile Marine Department.

This Addendum comes in effect immediately from the date of issue.

This is issued with the approval of the Directorate General of Shipping.



(Capt. Nitin Mukesh)
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