

## **M.S. Notice 17 of 2002**

**No. 33(1)/CR/2001**

**Dated: August 5, 2002**

**Sub: Approval of medical examiners to conduct pre-sea and periodic medical fitness examination of seafarers.**

The guidelines intended for use by Maritime Administrators, medical examiners, shipowners, seafarers' representatives and serving seafarers for conduct of medical fitness examinations of seafarers candidates and serving seafarers have been published by International Labour Office / World Health Organisation, Geneva document no. ILO/WHO/D.2/1997. The aim of these guidelines is to contribute to improved health and safety at sea by developing an International standard for pre-sea and periodic medical examinations and ensuring that doctors performing such examinations have a clear understanding of the special requirements of the seafaring life.

2. The Merchant Shipping (Medical Examination), Rules 2000 incorporate these ILO/WHO guidelines on the subject. Accordingly, the Director General of Shipping, under Rule 4 of the said rules approves approved medical practitioners at various ports / places in India, based on recommendations received from Indian Ship owning companies, associations of ship owners and manning agents such as INSA, FOSMA and MASSA.

3. Henceforth, following procedure is to be followed for approval of a medical practitioner under Rule 4 of MS (Medical Examination), Rules 2000 :

a) All medical practitioners desirous of being approved by the Directorate General of Shipping are to forward their application in the prescribed format to INSA, FOSMA or MASSA as the case may be, through a shipping company.

b) A Medical Examiner recommended by shipping company

- should be a licenced physician i.e. atleast MBBS;
- should have knowledge of living and working conditions on board a merchant ship, gained either through special instructions or through personal knowledge of seafaring;
- should be provided with written guidance on the procedures of the conduct of medical examiners of seafarers, including information on appeals, procedures for persons denied a medical fitness certificate as a result of an examination, etc;
- should enjoy absolute professional independence from employers, workers and their representatives  
in exercise of their medical judgment in terms of the medical examination procedure.

4. The medical examiners are to be personally interviewed and their clinic facilities inspected and a certificate submitted to the effect that the shipping company and also INSA/ FOSMA/ MASSA as the case may be, is fully satisfied in respect of medical examiner and the clinic facilities.

**5. This issues with the approval of Director General of Shipping.**

**Sd/-  
(Capt. Harish. Khatri)  
Nautical Surveyor**