

## **Guidelines for Medical Practitioners on Medical Certificates for Seafarers**

*These guidelines are intended for use by non-Faroese medical practitioners performing medical examinations of seafarers to serve onboard Faroese ships*

According to the Order on Medical Examination of Seafarers and Fishermen any person serving on board a Faroese ship must periodically undergo medical examination where they are to be found fit for service on board, possibly fit with limitations.

For persons younger than 18 years old the medical examination is valid for one year. For persons of 18 years of age or older the period of validity is two years. However, if the medical examination is valid on the date when the holder turns 18, the validity period is prolonged to two years counted from the date of the most recent medical examination.

If the seafarer or fisherman has previously been examined, the next examination shall at the earliest be undergone three months before the expiry of the period of validity.

### **The Medical Certificate**

The attached medical certificate shall always be used for registration of the results of the medical examination.

The medical certificate is divided into parts A, B and C. The seafarer or fisherman completes parts A and B carefully before the medical examination is conducted. The medical practitioner must obtain proof about the identity of the seafarer before beginning the examination.

The examination must cover all matters referred to in part C of the certificate.

The medical practitioner must – based inter alia on guidelines in the attached list of diseases and conditions – judge whether the person undergoing examination is fit or unfit for service on board Faroese ships, or whether fitness for service should be limited in regard to

<b>Time</b>	By restricting validity of the examination to less than the normal two years (or one year for persons younger than 18 years old). Normally the period of validity shall be at least three months.
<b>Field of work</b>	may be used in cases, where health considerations militate against performing certain kinds of work on board, or getting in contact with certain substances.
<b>Trading area</b>	by restricting the seafarer or fisherman to work only in a specified area. The most frequently used restrictions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Coastal Trades (Faroese home trade)</li><li>– Limited Waters (200 nautical miles from the coast of Faroe Islands, The North Sea and the Baltic Sea, the English Channel and the British Isles).</li></ul>

### *Look-out Duty and Engine-room Duty*

On the attached list of diseases and conditions the requirements concerning hearing, eyesight and sense of colour are specified in paragraph V "Diseases of the Sensory Organs". The result of the examination has to be registered in the medical certificate as:

- fit for look-out duty
- unfit for look-out duty
- unfit for look-out duty and engine-room duty.

### **The Health Certificate**

A health certificate for seafarers and fishermen may be issued by the Faroese Maritime Authority, by a medical practitioner (only in Faroe Islands), or by the ships master (only in foreign countries).

The medical practitioner in foreign countries is not allowed to register in the health certificate. It is the duty of the master of the ship to register the result of the medical examination in the health certificate in accordance with the medical certificate. The master or the shipping company shall hereafter send the original medical certificate to the Faroese Maritime Authority as soon as possible.

The Faroese Maritime Authority may require a seafarer or fisherman holding a valid health certificate to undergo a new medical examination conducted by a medical practitioner or specialist appointed by the Faroese Maritime Authority if, based on available information on health it is considered doubtful whether the seafarer or fisherman is still fit for his or her field of work on board.

### **Complaint**

Complaints against the results of the medical examination made by a medical practitioner may by the seafarer, fisherman og shipping company be brought before the Department of Occupational and Public Health who shall make a new examination.

Complaints against the results of the medical examination made by the Department of Occupational and Public Health or a decision made by a medical practitioner may by the seafarer, fisherman or shipping company be brought before the Healt Board which shall make the final administrative decision.

Complaints must normally be submitted within 4 weeks.

Complaints to be submitted to  
The Health Board for Seafarers and Fishermen  
c/o Ministry of Trade and Industry  
P.O. Box 377  
FO-110 Tórshavn  
Faroe Island