

# Seafarers'/Fishers'

## Medical Examinations Scheme

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From: Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

### **Seafarers:**

The Merchant Shipping (Medical Examinations) Regulations 2014 ([S.I. No. 246 of 2014](#)) makes it a legal requirement for any seafarer to hold a valid certificate confirming their medical fitness for the work for which they are employed.

These Regulations apply to seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity on board an Irish seagoing ship which is involved in commercial maritime operations.

### **Fishers:**

The European Union (International Labour Organisation Work in Fishing Convention) (Medical Examination) Regulations 2020 ([S.I. No. 266 of 2020](#)) make it a legal requirement for any fisher to hold a valid certificate confirming their medical fitness for the work for which they are employed.

These Regulations apply to fishers working in any capacity on board an Irish sea-going commercial fishing vessel, other than Category C fishing vessels which remain at sea for 72 hours or less or which are less than 15 metres length overall. (Category C fishing vessels are vessels which stay within 30 nautical miles of the shore or which have no cabin accommodation other than a wheelhouse).

### **Medical Examination:**

The Department has a panel of Approved Doctors who carry out the medical examinations and issue medical certificates using the Seafarer Information System. An Approved Doctor's medical practice should be contacted directly for an appointment.

When attending for a medical examination the seafarer/fisher should present with their Seafarer ID number as this will avoid any unnecessary delays at the Approved Doctor's practice. An Approved Doctor will be unable to issue a seafarer medical fitness certificate without this ID number. If the seafarer/fisher does not know their Seafarer ID number they should contact the Department by email at [admin@seafarers.ie](mailto:admin@seafarers.ie) where they will either be issued with a self-registration link or their Seafarer ID number.

Details and information on the Seafarers'/Fishers' Medical Examinations Scheme, including the list of Approved Doctors, application process, medical and eyesight standards, are set out in Marine Notice 34 of 2020.

In view of the importance of meeting the eyesight standards, including colour vision, anyone considering a seagoing career is strongly advised to have a full eyesight test before beginning training to ensure that they meet the standards.

### **Appeals Process:**

Seafarers:

A seafarer may make an appeal to the Department, where a medical certificate:

- (i) has been issued stating that the applicant is not fit, either temporarily or permanently, to carry out the duties as a seafarer,
- (ii) has had restrictions or conditions recorded,
- (iii) has been revoked,
- (iv) has been suspended for a period of more than 3 months.

Fishers:

A fisher may make an appeal to the Department, where a medical certificate:

- (i) has been issued stating that the applicant is not fit, either temporarily or permanently, to carry out the duties as a fisher;
- (ii) has had restrictions or conditions recorded;
- (iii) has been revoked;
- (iv) has been suspended;
- (v) has been issued, including with restrictions or conditions recorded, stating that the applicant is fit to carry out the duties of a fisher, where the applicant during the course of the medical examination indicated to the Approved Doctor that they were unfit;
- (vi) has been issued stating that the applicant is not fit, either temporarily or permanently, to carry out their duties as a fisher or had restrictions or conditions recorded and the medical reason for the certification has disappeared.

If you wish to make an appeal please email the Department at: [medicalregulations@dtas.gov.ie](mailto:medicalregulations@dtas.gov.ie)

The Department will refer the appeal to a Medical Referee. Details of the appeals process are also set out in Marine Notice 34 of 2020.

More details on seafarer/fisher certification, Seafarer Information System and general information can be found at [seafarers.ie](http://seafarers.ie)

**Fees:**

The maximum costs under the Scheme are as follows:

Seafarer/Fisher Medical Examination & issue of Certificate: €150.

Confirmatory Colour Vision testing (which includes Holmes Wright B Lantern & City University test): €60.

Drugs/Alcohol Testing: €50. (For initial test only. There may be an additional charge if chain of custody confirmatory testing is required).

Medical Appeal: €200. This cost will be the responsibility of the applicant. In addition, if reports are required from the applicant's GP and/or specialist, these will be charged at additional cost.