

MEDICAL REVIEW PROCESS

1. The medical review process applies to mariners who do not meet the physical or medical standards for a credential as contained in references (a) through (d) and/or who have a medical condition specified in this NVIC.
2. The Coast Guard issues (or denies) credentials under the authority of the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI). In the case of physical or medical standards, a waiver may be granted, as discussed in 46 CFR 10.205(d)(4), if extenuating circumstances warrant special consideration.
3. If an individual submits his/her application for a credential(s) to the Coast Guard, the physical examination report shall be thoroughly reviewed for the medical conditions listed in enclosure (3) early in the evaluation process. The Coast Guard should advise the applicant immediately if there are any discrepancies or if any additional information is needed. This will give the applicant time to schedule necessary appointments, receive test results, or meet other requirements to prevent unnecessary delays. *See* 46 CFR 10.205(d)(4).
4. A waiver may be granted for the vision requirements in enclosure (5) of this NVIC.
5. The NMC will review all medical or physical conditions subject to further review. The following information should be forwarded to the NMC:
 - a. A statement of the medical or physical condition(s) requiring review by the NMC;
 - b. A copy of all information from the physician addressing the mariner's diagnosis, prognosis, evaluations, tests, medications (dosage, side effects), limitations, and restrictions as discussed in the guidelines in enclosure (3);
 - c. A copy of the applicant's completed form CG-719K, CG-719K/E, or the equivalent;
 - d. A copy of the mariner's credential application, including a detailed description of the credential for which the applicant is applying;
 - e. A copy of any previous medical waivers granted to the applicant by the Coast Guard; and,
 - f. Any additional information that may be useful in evaluating the physical or medical condition(s) of the applicant. In this regard, recommendations from agencies of the federal government operating government vessels, as well as owners and operators of private vessels, made on behalf of their employees, will be given full consideration.
 - g. In all cases, the information should include a narrative from the cognizant medical practitioner describing the condition(s), prognosis, any restrictions, medications prescribed for the condition(s), and any side effects from the medications that the applicant may experience. Conditions that physically restrict a mariner from being able to perform his or her duties should include a report of a practical demonstration of the applicant's physical abilities and limitations as discussed in enclosure (2) of this NVIC.

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6. Incomplete information will result in delay. The NMC medical reviewers will examine all physical and medical condition(s) noted on form CG-719K and/or CG-719K/E, as additional conditions may be related to the specific condition(s) in question.
7. The NMC will review all information provided, and will determine one of the following:
 - a. The applicant is physically and medically qualified for the credential without any limitations, waivers and/or other conditions for issuance of the credential.
 - b. The applicant is physically and medically qualified for the credential with limitations and/or other conditions for issuance of the credential as specified by the NMC..
 - c. The applicant does not possess the vision, hearing, or general physical condition necessary, but a credential may be issued with appropriate limitations, waivers and/or other conditions for issuance of the credential as specified by the NMC.
 - d. Additional information is necessary to determine if the applicant is physically and/or medically qualified for the credential. The NMC will request additional information from the applicant. The NMC may hold the package pending receipt of that information before the package and/or application is returned unprocessed.
 - e. The applicant is not physically and/or medically qualified for the credential. The application for a credential will be denied by the OCMI.
8. The Coast Guard will inform the applicant of the results of its review. If issuance of a credential is denied due to a determination that the applicant is not physically and/or medically qualified, the applicant shall be informed in writing of the cause and advised of the right to reconsider and appeal the decision in accordance with 46 CFR Subpart 1.03.
 - a. **Under 46 CFR Subpart 1.03, the applicant may seek reconsideration of the denial of a credential within 30 days of the date of the denial. The applicant may subsequently appeal the reconsideration decision within 30 days of the date of the reconsideration decision. The 30-day time limit to file an appeal may be extended upon a showing of good cause. The initial decision to deny the application remains in effect while the reconsideration and appeal are ongoing, unless the action is stayed by the Coast Guard. Detailed instructions regarding the reconsideration and appeal process are provided to all applicants who are denied a credential.**
9. If a medical waiver is granted, certain conditions may be placed on the mariner in order to maintain the waiver. These conditions may include, at a minimum, that any deterioration of a waived medical condition shall be immediately reported to the Coast Guard. Where the waived medical condition is progressive, the waiver may require the mariner to submit medical exams and/or tests at varying intervals to track the ongoing status of the waived medical condition. *See* 46 CFR 10.205(d)(4). Applicants have the right to appeal any

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conditions placed on a waiver in accordance with 46 CFR Subpart 1.03 (*see paragraph 8.a. above*).

- a. The credential(s) should not be issued unless the mariner signs a document acknowledging, and agreeing to, all conditions placed on the waiver.
 - b. Deterioration of a waived medical condition and/or failure to comply with any conditions placed on the waiver may render the waiver invalid. Appropriate administrative action, up to an including suspension or revocation of the mariner's credential(s) in accordance with 46 CFR Part 5, may result.
10. On a case-by-case basis, the NMC will consider individual proposals from applicants (along with their employers, as appropriate) for credentials to be issued with appropriate limitations, waivers and/or other conditions in order to address concerns associated with medical conditions subject to further review (enclosure (3)) or the inability to meet the physical ability guidelines (enclosure (2)). *See* 46 CFR 10.205(d)(4).
11. Trusted Agents. The Coast Guard may designate certain medical practitioners as trusted agents to perform physical examinations on mariners. Physical examinations conducted by trusted agents may help ensure completeness of the physical examination and reduce processing time.

The criteria to become a trusted agent would be specified by the Coast Guard if/when the Coast Guard initiates this program.

In all cases, the NMC medical staff is available to provide consultations and educational outreach to medical practitioners and maritime industry medical representatives on the conduct of mariner medical examinations and proper documentation to facilitate NMC evaluations. Maritime industry and professional medical organizations are encouraged to utilize NMC staff for educating health care providers and others involved in mariner medical examinations.