

Information for Physicians and Other Licensed Healthcare Providers

For the most current medical information available, please contact the National Maritime Center Medical Helpdesk, at marinermedical@uscg.mil, or 1-888-IASKNMC (1-888-427-5662).

1. CG-719K Merchant Mariner Credential Medical Examination Report:

- Ensure that all blocks are filled in on examination forms. Forms with missing information will incur delays in processing.
- **Section II(a) Medical Conditions:** Review and verify the medical history as reported by the mariner. Medical practitioners should provide details of conditions as indicated on the form and aid the mariner in submitting the supporting medical documentation needed for the noted conditions. The requirements for this supporting documentation are listed in [NVIC 04-08](#), however, USCG practices, with respect to the physical and medical evaluation process, continually evolve to align with current medical standards of care and current safety standards. Although [NVIC 04-08](#) details specific medical conditions and the recommended data for evaluation of these conditions, it is not all inclusive or definitive, and may be subject to further review.
 - See the [TOP 10 MEDICAL CONDITIONS](#) section of the NMC website for more information including supporting documentation requirements and evaluation information. For information and requirements for other conditions, see [NVIC 04-08](#).
 - Failure to provide the support medical documentation for noted conditions can lead to significant delays in processing and evaluation.
- **Section III Medications:** Verify that ALL medications, vitamins, dietary supplements and/or performance enhancing substances are listed with the dosage and frequency. This includes both prescription and non-prescription substances.
- **Section IV(a) Visual Acuity:** Ensure that both corrected AND uncorrected visual acuity is recorded, if applicable.

- **Section IV(b) Color Vision:** Non-standardized tests are not acceptable at this time. This includes yarn tests, crayons, pointing out primary colors in the office, etc. Please contact the NMC for any questions regarding the tests listed or to determine if an alternative test is acceptable, prior to submitting the form.
- **Section V Hearing:** Instructions as follows:
 - *Hearing Test* - If the medical practitioner conducting the general medical exam has concerns that an applicant's ability to hear may impact maritime safety, the examining medical practitioner, if not qualified to conduct the appropriate examinations, must refer the applicant to an audiologist or other hearing specialist to conduct an audiometer test and/or speech discrimination test, as appropriate. This documentation must be signed and dated by the examining provider.
 - The audiometer test must include testing at the following thresholds: 500 Hz; 1,000 Hz; 2,000 Hz, and 3,000 Hz. The frequency responses for each ear should be averaged to determine the measure of an applicant's hearing ability. Applicants must demonstrate an unaided threshold of 30 decibels or less at least one ear.
 - The functional speech discrimination (FSD) test should be carried out at a level of 65 decibels. For issuance of an original MMC or endorsement the applicant must demonstrate functional speech discrimination of at least 90 percent. For renewal or raise of grade, the applicant must demonstrate functional speech discrimination of at least 80 percent. An applicant who is unable to meet the standards of the audiometer test, but who can pass the functional speech discrimination test or who requires hearing aids to meet the hearing standards, may be eligible for a medical waiver in accordance with §10.303 of this subpart.
 - Documentation of abnormal hearing on page 3 of the CG-719K form will require submission of an evaluation meeting the above mentioned testing guidelines. If audiogram results demonstrate an average threshold value of 30 dB or lower for each ear, the FSD testing will not be required.

- **Section VI Physical Examination:**

- Please ensure that all boxes are completed, including calculated Body Mass Index (BMI). Please use the Comments Section to describe any abnormalities found on physical examination or to elucidate on the Applicant's medical history/conditions from Section IV.

- **Section VII Demonstration of Physical Ability:**

- If the examining medical practitioner doubts the applicant's ability to meet the guidelines contained within this table, the practitioner should require that the applicant demonstrate the ability to meet the guidelines.
- All demonstrations of ability should be performed by the applicant without assistance.
- Any prosthesis normally worn by the applicant and other aid devices such as prescription glasses may be used by the applicant in all physical demonstrations except when the use of such would prevent the proper wearing of mandated personal protective equipment (PPE).
- If an applicant is unable to meet any of the guidelines contained within the table on page 8 of the examination form, the examining medical practitioner should provide information on the degree or severity of the applicant's inability to meet the guidelines.

2. Fitness for Duty Determination:

- Fitness for duty determinations require that medical practitioners understand the underlying physical condition, how that condition is impacted by service in the maritime environment, and how the condition itself can impact maritime and public safety.
- Seafarers work in a multitude of environments and conditions that can impact their physical condition and may prevent them from obtaining timely medical care. Remote locations with minimal, if any, medical resources can be common and the loss of a functioning mariner on a vessel can significantly impact the rest of the crew, both in regards to routine and emergency duties.

- Medical conditions need to be considered with respect to functional impairments, stability, need for surveillance and the risk of incapacitation.
- Medical practitioners should consider medication needs, possible impairment or incapacitation from required medications, and the consequences of missed dosages or lost medication.
- Physical ability requirements are discussed in Enclosure (2) of [NVIC 04-08](#) and must be considered in relation to the seafarer's medical condition. It should be understood that mariners must be able to perform both routine and emergency procedures. It should be noted that [NVIC 04-08](#) is not all inclusive and additional medical information may be requested to clarify condition and stability of the condition.
- Medical conditions that preclude performance of these duties increase the risk to remaining crew, property and public safety.
- Recommendations for fitness for duty by treating practitioners are taken into consideration by the National Maritime Center personnel evaluating the medical condition of the mariner. It should be noted, however, that treating practitioners often make recommendations without fully understanding fitness for duty guidelines and the marine transportation system (MTS) safety needs. Final determination will be made in accordance with the overriding safety needs of the MTS.