

CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON
STANDARDS OF TRAINING,
CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING
FOR SEAFARERS, 1978
Agenda item 7

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**CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE SEAFARERS'
TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) CODE**

Medical Standards of Seafarers

Submitted by China

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document further discusses the necessity of keeping “Assessment of minimum entry level and in-service physical abilities for seafarers” in part B of the STCW Code
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	5
<i>High-level action:</i>	5.2
<i>Planned output:</i>	5.2.2.1
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 7
<i>Related documents:</i>	STW 41/16, STW 41/7/43 and STCW/CONF.2/4

Background

1 At STW 41 in January 2010, some delegates expressed concerns over the revised Standard “Assessment of minimum entry Level and in-service physical abilities for seafarers” being moved from part B to part A of the STCW Code. STW 41 did not achieve consensus on this change.

2 The observers from the International Labour Organization also reminded STW 41 of the relevant regulations governing the medical certificate in the 2006 Maritime Labour Convention, and that the authorities of the contracting parties together with the relevant parties should abide by the guidance to be developed by the International Labour Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the World Health Organization. The International Labour Organization raised concerns that the approval of the mandatory standard before a further discussion by the three organizations might have potential impact on the shipping industry and seafarers. The International Labour Organization tends to keep the detailed health standard non-mandatory and to have the standards further elaborated by guidelines to be developed by the three organizations.

Discussion

3 Many items on the Standard “Assessment of minimum entry level and in-service physical abilities for seafarers” have been tested and evaluated by the professional training and the assessment of competence of seafarers, and the fitness of seafarers to perform their duties and responsibilities on board has been taken into account. Thus, the necessity of receiving the examination from an appropriately qualified and experienced medical practitioner should be deliberated.

4 The table for “assessment of minimum entry Level and in-service physical abilities for seafarers” has been significantly changed and not yet been adopted and applied by the most STCW Parties; therefore, it is not suitable to be included as the mandatory standard.

5 It is felt that this may cause practical and/or hypothetical problems as a result of the discrepancy between the medical standards of seamen in the STCW Code and those in the 2006 Maritime Labour Convention.

Proposal

6 In light of the above it is proposed to retain standards for “Assessment of minimum entry level and in-service physical abilities for seafarers” in part B of the STCW Code.

Action requested of the Conference

7 The Conference is invited to consider the above proposal and take action as appropriate.
