



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION
31st session
Agenda item 10

STW 31/10/1
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MEDICAL STANDARDS FOR SEAFARERS

Submitted by the Republic of Croatia

SUMMARY

Executive summary:	The document contains comments for development of appropriate medical standards for seafarers prior to inclusion in Part B of the STCW Code.
Action to be taken:	Paragraph 6
Related documents:	MSC 70/5/4, STW 30/9, STW 30/9/1, STW 30/13

1 The Republic of Croatia considers this to be a very important issue for an in-depth consideration during STW 31. Therefore the Government of the Republic of Croatia has formed a working group dealing with the most important issues of the uniform implementation of regulation I/9 of the STCW 1978 Convention, as amended pursuant to the conclusions mentioned in the STW 30/13 relating to medical standards for seafarers.

ILO/WHO Guidelines for conducting Pre-Sea and Periodic Medical Fitness Examination for Seafarers

2 After a comprehensive review of the ILO/WHO Guidelines and comparison with the Croatian standards the working group, consisting of experts from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Communications, has made general conclusion that the Guidelines address most issues relevant to ensuring that medical examinations are thorough and that minimum international standards are established.

3 Based on our understanding and experience gained from the implementation of regulation I/9 of the STCW 1978 Convention, as amended, our Government has already prescribed higher criteria than the ones established by the Guidelines. Nevertheless, in our opinion, some parts of the Guidelines should be amended as follows:

- .1 the general provisions of the Guidelines should contain the following note:
"Notwithstanding these Guidelines, the competent authority may require additional medical examination in relation to the specific circumstances during the voyage or type of ship";

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- .2 medical examination should include examination by a psychologist (at least during pre-sea medical examination), page 8;
- .3 paragraph 3 of annex A should be amended as follows: “Persons required to use spectacles or contact lenses to perform duties must prove that they have a spare pair conveniently available on board the ship. Any need to wear visual aids to meet the required standards must be recorded on each certificate and an endorsement issued”; and
- .4 annex D should have the mark “CONFIDENTIAL” pursuant to paragraph 13 of Chapter X.

Physical abilities for entry-level seafarers (STW 30/9 and STW 31/10)

4 This document presents a good basis for the development of the physical standards for entry-level seafarers which can be applied on an international basis. In our opinion such examination of physical abilities for entry-level seafarers should be performed as the last examination in the process of assessment of fitness for service at sea. Namely the proposed document requires very complex assessment of physical abilities which should be performed only for the candidates complying with requirements for medical fitness.

5 The Republic of Croatia proposes the following amendments to the table in the Annex of the said document:

- .1 in the first row, under the first column “incidence of sea-sickness (motion-sickness)” should be added and the candidate should be able to meet the requirements at the motion simulator; and
- .2 there should be an alternative for the method of demonstrating physical abilities such as “Stand and walk for a period of not less than 4 hours”. Our proposal is that such measurement should be replaced with adequate application of a treadmill and measuring instruments.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

6 The Sub-Committee is invited to:

- .1 concur with the proposals in paragraph 3 above and forward them to ILO/WHO for consideration; and
- .2 consider the proposals in paragraph 5 above for inclusion in any guidelines on physical standards for entry-level seafarers.