

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

This table lists the standards contained in reference (c) that apply to applicants for each of the various types of credentials. If more than one credential is applied for at the same time, the most stringent of the requirements that apply to each credential should prevail.

CREDENTIAL APPLIED FOR: (ORIGINAL, RAISE IN GRADE OR RENEWAL)	Demonstration of Physical Ability Enclosure (2)	General Medical Exam Enclosure (3)	Vision & Hearing Standards Enclosure (5)	Form <i>(approved equivalent form may be substituted)</i>
ALL DECK OFFICERS, INCLUDING PILOTS, REGARDLESS OF ROUTE, TONNAGE OR VESSEL TYPE	YES	YES	YES	CG-719K
ALL ENGINEERING OFFICERS, REGARDLESS OF ROUTE, TONNAGE, VESSEL TYPE, PROPULSION MODE OR PROPULSION POWER	YES	YES	YES	CG-719K
RADIO OFFICERS	YES	YES	YES	CG-719K
OFFSHORE INSTALLATION MANAGER, BARGE SUPERVISOR OR BALLAST CONTROL OPERATOR	YES	YES	YES	CG-719K
ENTRY-LEVEL RATING (Ordinary Seaman, Wiper & Steward's Department Food Handler) VALID FOR SERVICE ON SEAGOING VESSELS OF 200 GROSS REGISTER TONS OR MORE ^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5}	YES	NO	NO	CG-719K/E (CG-719K may be substituted)
ENTRY-LEVEL RATING (Ordinary Seaman, Wiper & Steward's Department Food Handler) LIMITED TO SERVICE ON NON-SEAGOING VESSELS AND/OR ON SEAGOING VESSELS OF LESS THAN 200 GROSS REGISTER TONS ^{1, 2, 5}	NO	NO	NO	N/A
QUALIFIED RATING (Able Seaman, QMED and Tankerman) ⁵	YES	YES	YES	CG-719K
LIFEBOATMAN VALID FOR SERVICE ON SEAGOING VESSELS OF 200 GROSS REGISTER TONS OR MORE, INCLUDING CERTIFICATION AS PROFICIENT IN SURVIVAL CRAFT UNDER STCW VI/2 ^{2, 3, 4}	YES	NO	NO	CG-719K/E (CG-719K may be substituted)
LIFEBOATMAN LIMITED TO SERVICE ON NON-SEAGOING VESSELS AND/OR ON SEAGOING VESSELS OF LESS THAN 200 GROSS REGISTER TONS ²	NO	NO	NO	N/A
CADET, STUDENT OBSERVERS, APPRENTICE ENGINEER AND APPRENTICE MATE VALID FOR SERVICE ON SEAGOING VESSELS OF 200 GROSS REGISTER TONS OR MORE ^{2, 3}	YES	NO	NO	CG-719K/E (CG-719K may be substituted)
STCW ENDORSEMENT FOR GMDSS AT-SEA MAINTAINER (certified under STCW Regulation IV/2)				CG-719K/E (CG-719K may be substituted)

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CREDENTIAL APPLIED FOR: (ORIGINAL, RAISE IN GRADE OR RENEWAL)	Demonstration of Physical Ability Enclosure (2)	General Medical Exam Enclosure (3)	Vision & Hearing Standards Enclosure (5)	Form <i>(approved equivalent form may be substituted)</i>
VALID FOR SERVICE ON VESSELS SUBJECT TO STCW ⁴ STCW ENDORSEMENT FOR PERSONS DESIGNATED TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE ONBOARD SHIP (certified under STCW Regulation VI/4), VALID FOR SERVICE ON VESSELS SUBJECT TO STCW ⁴				
CADET, STUDENT OBSERVERS, APPRENTICE ENGINEERS AND APPRENTICE MATE LIMITED TO SERVICE ON NON-SEAGOING VESSELS AND/OR ON SEAGOING VESSELS OF LESS THAN 200 GROSS REGISTER TONS ²	NO	NO	NO	N/A
RATING FORMING PART OF A NAVIGATIONAL WATCH (RFPNW) AND RATING FORMING PART OF AN ENGINEERING WATCH (RFPEW), VALID FOR SERVICE ON VESSELS SUBJECT TO STCW ⁴ ALL OTHER STCW ENDORSEMENTS, VALID FOR SERVICE ON VESSELS SUBJECT TO STCW ⁴	YES	YES	YES	CG-719K

NOTES:

1. Food Handlers: Applicants for ratings authorizing the handling of food are required to produce a certificate from a physician stating that they are free from communicable disease. Guidelines for food handler certification are available on the HOMEPORT internet website at: <http://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/browse.do?channelId=-25023> This may, but is not required, to be documented on a CG-719K. At the certifying physician's discretion, it may be documented in any format, including letterhead, from the physician certifying that the applicant is disease free. See 46 CFR 12.25-20.
2. "Seagoing vessel" means a self-propelled vessel in commercial service that operates beyond the Boundary Line established by 46 CFR Part 7. It does not include a vessel that navigates exclusively on inland waters. See 46 CFR 15.1101.
3. 46 CFR 12.02-17(e) requires applicants for merchant mariners' documents who will be serving on seagoing vessels of 200 gross register tons or more to provide a "document issued by a qualified medical practitioner attesting the applicant's medical fitness to perform the functions for which the document is issued." Successful completion of a CG-719K/E or approved equivalent form satisfies this requirement (See encl. (2)).
4. See 46 CFR 10.202(k), 12.02-7(f), 15.103(d)-(g) & 15.1103 for applicability of STCW. See also NVIC 7-00, "Clarification of the Application of STCW, 1978, As Amended, To Vessels Less Than 200 Gross Register Tons (GRT)."
5. Staff Officers: Applicants for certificates of registry are required to hold an MMD (entry level rating or qualified rating), and they are required to satisfy the physical/medical requirements of that MMD, if any. See 46 CFR 10.805(b). See also paragraph #5 on next page for certificates of registry for staff officers.

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1. ORIGINAL LICENSES AND MMDs ENDORSED WITH QUALIFIED RATINGS. In accordance with 46 CFR 10.205(d), 12.05-5, 12.15-5 & 13.125, all applicants for an original license and/or MMDs endorsed with qualified ratings of AB, QMED and Tankerman must present to the Coast Guard a completed Coast Guard physical examination form, or the equivalent, executed by a qualified medical practitioner. This examination must have been completed prior to the submission of the application for the credential(s), and not more than 12 months prior to issuance of the credential(s).
2. RENEWAL OF LICENSES AND MMDs ENDORSED WITH QUALIFIED RATINGS. In accordance with 46 CFR 10.209(d) & 12.02-27(d), applicants for renewal of all licenses and/or MMDs endorsed with qualified ratings of AB, QMED and Tankerman, must submit certification by a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner that they are in good health and have no physical impairment or medical condition which would render them incompetent to perform the ordinary duties of the credentials. This certification must address visual acuity and hearing in addition to general physical condition, and must have been completed within the previous 12 months from the date of renewal application. Applicants may meet these requirements by submitting a completed CG-719K or approved equivalent form.
3. RAISE IN GRADE OF LICENSES. In accordance with 46 CFR 10.207(e), applicants for raise in grade of a license who have not had a physical examination for an original license or renewal of a license within the previous 3 years (from the date of application for the raise in grade) must submit a certification by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner that he or she is in good health and has no physical impairment or medical condition which would render him or her incompetent to perform the ordinary duties of the license(s) applied for. Applicants may meet these requirements by submitting a completed CG-719K or approved equivalent form. There are no physical requirements for raise in grade of licenses if the applicant had a physical examination for an original license or renewal of a license within the previous 3 years from the date of application for the raise in grade.
4. STCW ENDORSEMENTS. An exam meeting the guidelines in enclosures (2) through (5) satisfies the STCW requirements for medical fitness. No exam is necessary for an STCW endorsement if the applicant has already completed an exam meeting the guidelines in enclosures (2) through (5) for the credential underlying the STCW endorsement. For example, an AB who applies for an RFPNW endorsement two years after being issued his/her AB MMD need not complete another exam. An ordinary seaman (OS) who applies for an RFPNW endorsement two years after being issued his/her OS MMD should complete an exam meeting the guidelines in enclosures (2) through (5) (on a CG-719K or approved equivalent form) if the exam he/she previously completed to obtain his/her OS MMD only met the guidelines in enclosure (2).
5. CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRY FOR STAFF OFFICERS. In accordance with 46 CFR 10.805(b), applicants for certificates of registry are required to hold an MMD. Although there are no specified physical or medical requirements for certificates of registry, applicants are required to satisfy the physical/medical requirements of the underlying MMD, if any.

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6. MARINERS' DUTIES. The duties and responsibilities that a mariner may perform can vary widely according to the credential. Mariners should be physically capable of performing all potential duties associated with their credential(s).
7. SUPPLEMENTS AND MEDICATIONS. Supplements and over-the-counter (OTC) medications may interact with prescription drugs or cause hazardous side effects on their own. Medical practitioners should question applicants about their use of these substances. See paragraph 6 of enclosure (3) and enclosure (4).
8. SHORT-TERM CONDITIONS. Short-term conditions may render a mariner not physically or medically competent at the time of application, even though the condition is being appropriately treated and will be of relative short duration. An example of this would be a broken arm. In these circumstances, the Coast Guard should advise the applicant of his options. The credential may, but is not required to, be issued or renewed, provided the applicant immediately deposits the credential with the Coast Guard until he or she meets the physical and medical standards. *See* 46 CFR 5.201. Mariners always have the choice not to apply for a credential until their condition has improved, or they may choose to renew a credential for continuity purposes only until such time as their condition improves. *See* 46 CFR 10.209(g) and 12.02-27(g).
9. RENEWAL OF CREDENTIAL(S) FOR CONTINUITY PURPOSES. For conditions that are under treatment but a lengthy period of recovery is likely, the mariner should renew the credential for continuity purposes to retain validity and avoid having to re-initiate the entire application process, which may include retaking the complete examination. When the mariner recovers to the point where he or she is medically fit or may be considered for a waiver, the mariner may apply for restoration of full operating authority. Original credentials should not be issued until the applicant has totally recovered or recovered to an extent where he or she may be granted a medical waiver, limitations, or conditions of issuance of a credential as appropriate. *See* 46 CFR 10.209(g) and 12.02-27(g).
10. MEDICAL EXAMS, TESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS OF PHYSICAL ABILITY. All exams, tests and demonstrations must be performed, witnessed or reviewed by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner licensed by a state in the U.S., a U.S. possession, or a U.S. territory. Exams, tests and demonstrations performed, witnessed or reviewed by holders of foreign medical licenses and chiropractors or naturopathic doctors are not accepted under current regulations. All applicants who require a general medical exam must be physically examined. Examinations based solely on documentary review, and/or patient history review, are unacceptable. *See* 46 CFR 10.205(d), 10.207(e), 10.209(d), 12.02-27(d), 12.05-5, 12.15-5 & 13.125. Individuals who submit false information to the Coast Guard may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 USC 1001.
11. FIRST CLASS PILOTS AND THOSE INDIVIDUALS "SERVING AS" PILOTS
 - a. 46 CFR 10.709 requires that every licensed first class pilot serving as a pilot on a vessel of 1600 GRT or more shall have a thorough physical examination each year while holding the first class pilot license or endorsement, and that this physical examination must meet the same requirements for originally obtaining the license or endorsement as specified in 46 CFR 10.205(d). 46 CFR 15.812 (b)(3) & (c) require that other licensed individuals who "serve as"

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pilots on certain types of vessels must have a current physical examination in accordance with the provisions of 46 CFR 10.709.¹ A physical examination meeting the guidelines in enclosures (2) through (5) satisfies these regulatory requirements.

- b. 46 CFR 10.709 also requires that first class pilots on vessels of 1600 GRT or more shall provide the Coast Guard with copies of their most recent physical examination upon request. This includes those individuals who “serve as” pilots in accordance with 46 CFR 15.812(b)(3) & (c). The Coast Guard published a notice in the Federal Register on September 28, 2006 which constitutes the request, under 46 CFR 10.709(e), to require all first class pilots on vessels of 1600 GRT or more, and all other individuals who “serve as” pilots in accordance with 46 CFR 15.812(b)(3) & (c), to provide a copy of their annual physical examination to the Coast Guard. *See* 71 FR 56999. The report of physical examination will be reviewed in accordance with this NVIC.
- c. First class pilots, and all other individuals who “serve as” pilots in accordance with 46 CFR 15.812(b)(3) & (c), should annually submit a CG-719K or approved equivalent form to meet this requirement. This should be submitted to the Coast Guard no later than 30 calendar days after completion of the physical examination each year. The annual physical examination must, in accordance with 46 CFR 10.709(d), be completed by the first day of the month following the first anniversary of the individual’s most recent satisfactorily completed physical examination.
- d. As published in the Federal Register on December 13, 2006, all pilots on vessels of 1600 GRT or more, and all other individuals who “serve as” pilots on certain types of vessels of 1600 GRT or more, in accordance with 46 CFR 15.812(b)(3) & (c), are also required to provide the passing results of their annual chemical test for dangerous drugs to the Coast Guard, unless they provide satisfactory evidence that they have met the exceptions stated in Title 46 CFR 16.220(c) (e.g. participation in a random drug testing program). *See* 71 FR 74553.
- e. The Coast Guard may initiate appropriate administrative action in the event any first class pilot - or any other individual “serving as” a pilot (as described above) - does not meet the physical examination requirements specified in 46 CFR 10.205(d), up to and including suspension or revocation of the mariner’s credential in accordance with 46 CFR Part 5. The Coast Guard may also initiate appropriate administrative action, up to and including suspension or revocation of the mariner’s credential in accordance with 46 CFR Part 5, if any first class pilot - or any other individual “serving as” a pilot - fails to submit their annual physical examination, or the passing results of their annual chemical test for dangerous drugs (unless exempted as discussed in paragraph (d) above), to the Coast Guard.
- f. Individuals with pilot licenses, pilot endorsements, master licenses and mate licenses (and individuals applying for those credentials) who do not in fact serve as a first class pilot or otherwise “serve as” a pilot in accordance with 46 CFR 15.812(b)(3) & (c) are not required to submit an annual physical examination to the Coast Guard; however, these individuals must submit an annual physical examination before serving as a first class pilot or otherwise “serving as” a pilot in accordance with 46 CFR 15.812(b)(3) & (c).

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12. GREAT LAKES PILOTS

- a. Application for original or renewal registration as a Great Lakes Registered Pilot must be made on Form CG-4509. See 46 CFR 401.200(a). Only the "Application for Registration" portion (pages one & two) is needed to meet this requirement. The Director, Office of Great Lakes Pilotage at Coast Guard Headquarters (Director) has designated CG-719K as the required form for physical examinations replacing the previous requirement to use page 3 of CG-4509.
- b. A Great Lakes Registered Pilot must be "physically competent to perform the duties of a U.S. Registered Pilot and meet the medical requirements prescribed by the Commandant." See 46 CFR 401.210(a)(4). The annual physical examination required by 46 CFR 402.210(a) must be reported "on the form furnished by the Director" and must be given by a "licensed medical doctor". A copy of the CG-719K submitted annually to the Director will satisfy all original, renewal and annual physical reporting requirements. The Registered Pilot will be responsible for submitting the original CG-719K to any other Coast Guard offices requiring the form for annual reporting and/or credentialing purposes. It is incumbent upon a Great Lakes Registered Pilot to inform the Director of a debilitating medical condition that develops between annual examinations.
- c. The Director may suspend and/or revoke or refuse to register or renew a Great Lakes Registered Pilot's registration when that Pilot does not continuously meet the standards of this NVIC. See 46 CFR 401.210(a), 401.240 & 401.250. Evidence obtained from any physical examination may be used by the Coast Guard to suspend and/or revoke any underlying credential in accordance with 46 CFR Part 5.

¹ Individuals who "serve as" pilots on vessels of less than 1600 GRT in accordance with 46 CFR 15.812(b)(2) do not have an annual physical examination requirement.