

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 156 of 2016

(Requirements for Local Vessel Licensing, Safety Survey,
Manning and Crew Certification)

Regular Medical Examination for Coxswains Operating Vessels Permitted to Carry More Than 100 Passengers

To enhance the safety of local passenger vessels and navigational safety, the employers of coxswains operating Class I vessels permitted to carry more than 100 passengers are required to arrange medical examinations for their coxswains, upon their appointment and subsequently at intervals of not exceeding five years in accordance with the attached guidelines.

Maisie CHENG
Director of Marine

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR
Date: 24 November 2016
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**Guidelines for Medical Examination of Coxswains Operating
Class I Vessels Permitted to Carry More Than 100 Passengers**

Introduction

Class I vessels include vessels that are frequently used by the public. It is reasonable and prudent for the employers of coxswains to review the physical conditions of the coxswains from time to time to see if they are fit for operating vessels. The coxswains should also pay attention to their physical conditions. If physical conditions that affect their operation of vessels arise, they should inform their employers immediately to make suitable arrangements.

2. The guidelines aims to provide the employers of coxswains operating Class I vessels permitted to carry more than 100 passengers with guidance on arranging regular medical examinations for their coxswains. The guidelines provided here were formulated in consultation with the local vessel industry, and endorsed by the Local Vessels Advisory Committee at its meeting on 18 August 2015. The Marine Department (“MD”) requires that the employers of coxswains operating Class I vessels permitted to carry more than 100 passengers shall arrange regular medical examinations for their coxswains in accordance with these guidelines.

Regular Medical Examinations

Examination Frequency

3. For coxswains of Class I vessels permitted to carry more than 100 passengers, if they are employed on or after the issue date of these guidelines, their employers should arrange medical examinations for them upon their appointment and subsequently at an interval of not exceeding five years.

4. For coxswains who were employed before the issue date of the guidelines and operate a vessel carrying more than 100 passengers, their employers should arrange one medical examination for them within five years from the issue date of these guidelines and subsequently at least once every five years.

5. Apart from those mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4 above, for coxswains who operate a vessel permitted to carry more than 100 passengers, if they have undergone a medical examination that conformed to these guidelines within five years before the issue date of the guidelines, such medical examination would be regarded as one medical examination that was carried out in compliance with these guidelines. Subsequent to that medical examination, their employers should arrange another medical examination for coxswains anew at least once every five years.
6. The employers may consider arranging regular medical examinations for their coxswains on a more frequent basis.

Items under Examination

7. Regular medical examinations should at least include the following items:
- (a) General examination (including weight, height, blood pressure, pulse measurements, etc.);
 - (b) Urine test (albumin and glucose test);
 - (c) Chest X-ray;
 - (d) Eyesight test;
 - (e) Blood test (haemoglobin test); and
 - (f) Hearing test.
8. The employers may consider including more items for examination.

Examination Results

9. The employers should refer to the results of medical examinations and medical practitioner's comments or opinions on the overall physical conditions of the coxswains to carry out human resources management where appropriate in relation to these coxswains.
10. The employers should keep the medical examination reports (including examination results and medical practitioner's comments or opinions) of the coxswains properly for a reasonable period. When handling the medical examination reports of the coxswains, the employers should comply with the relevant provisions stipulated in the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap 486) as well as the relevant codes and guidelines issued by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data.

Enquiry

11. For enquiries about these guidelines, please contact the Shipping Registry and Seafarers' Branch of the Shipping Division of MD.

Address: 3/F, Harbour Building, Central

Telephone: 2852 4368

Facsimile: 2541 6754

Email: mdenquiry@mardep.gov.hk

Shipping Registry and Seafarers' Branch

Shipping Division

Marine Department

November 2016