



REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE ADMINISTRATION

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Marine Circular (5/2014)

“Eyesight standards for Myanmar seafarers”

Applicable to:	Myanmar Maritime University, Myanmar Mercantile Marine College, Myanma Five Stars Line, Ship-owners, Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Services Companies, Seafarers, Maritime Institutions and DMA approved Medical Centres
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Ref:

- (a) *Myanmar Merchant Shipping Act, Section 21*
- (b) *Notification No. 108/2012, Ministry of Transport*
- (c) *Notification No 1/2012, Department of Marine Administration*
- (d) *Guidance for Seafarer Medical Examinations and Certifications (latest edition)*
- (e) *International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended*
- (f) *Marine Circular (2/2007) – Conduct of Eyesight Test*

1. With reference to Marine Circular (2/2007), for the majority of seafarers visual acuity and colour vision, a separate certificate (Eye test) is needed to confirm that they meet the necessary visual standards. However, some seafarers may not need a separate certificate for confirming that they are able to meet the statutory visual acuity and colour vision standards. This Notice introduces new arrangements whereby Opticians (optometrists) from medical centres registered and approved by the DMA instead of DMA examiners will conduct the vision test. This means that some seafarers are no further required to hold a separate eye test certificate issued by the DMA, but need to hold “*Medical Certificate for Myanmar Seafarer*”.

2. The following seafarers need a seafarer vision test to be conducted by DMA examiners:
- (A) new entrants for first seafarer (pre-sea) examination is particularly important to avoid inappropriate career decisions prior to apply for Seafarer’s Identification and Record Book, whereby such test shall be in compliance with the minimum eyesight standards set out in Table (1) of Appendix A;

- (B) new entrants to Maritime Institutions (Myanmar Maritime University and Myanmar Mercantile Marine College), likewise first seafarer (pre-sea) examination, is particularly important to avoid inappropriate career decisions, whereby such test shall be in compliance with the minimum eyesight standards set out in Table (1) of Appendix A;
 - (C) new applicants to change their career to serve as Deck Ratings who intend to undertake look-out duties, whereby such test shall be in compliance with the minimum eyesight standards set out in Table (1) of Appendix A and
 - (D) any candidates applying for a Certificate of Competency under the DMA Notification 1/2012, whereby such test shall be in compliance with the minimum in-service eyesight standards set out in Table (2) of Appendix A;
3. Any seafarer either deck and engineer officers or ratings does not necessarily require to hold a seafarer vision test whereby eyesight and colour vision test is conducted by DMA examiner in order for revalidating certificates or for periodic medical checks. This means that *Seafarer Certificate for Myanmar Seafarer* will serve as a valid certificate for seafarer vision test. Eyesight and colour vision should be in compliance with the international eyesight standards for seafarers set out in section A-I/9 of the STCW Code: Table (2) of Appendix A. In examinations, appropriate equipment should be used in the assessment of visual acuity, colour vision and night blindness, particularly regarding those examinees who will be engaged in lookout duties.
4. This circular serves to inform that with effect from the Date of 9th July 2014, the approved medical doctors, optometrist examiners, shipowners, SRPS Companies, masters and seafarers shall have to follow this Circular for the purpose of examination on Seafarer Eyesight and Vision Standards.
5. This Circular supersedes Marine Circular (2/2007) dated 22nd August 2007.

Maung Maung Oo
Director General
Department of Marine Administration
Ministry of Transport

Vision standards

Testing

1. All tests needed to determine the visual fitness of a seafarer are to be reliably performed by a competent person and use procedures recognized by the Department of Marine Administration. Quality assurance of vision-testing procedures at a person's first seafarer examination is particularly important to avoid inappropriate career decisions; competent authorities may wish to specify this in detail:

- (A) Distance vision shall be tested using Snellen test type or equivalent.
- (B) Near vision should be tested with reading test type.
- (C) Colour vision shall be tested by colour confusion plates (Ishihara or equivalent).
- (D) Candidates for master and deck department, lantern tests in a dark room will be used when appropriate (in line with the International Recommendations for Colour Vision Requirements for Transport of the International Commission on Illumination (CIE-143-2001, including any subsequent versions)). *The use of colour-correcting lenses will invalidate test results and should not be permitted.*
- (E) Limitations to night vision may be secondary to specific eye diseases or may follow ophthalmological procedures. They may also be noted during other tests or found as a result of limitations to low-contrast vision testing. Specialist assessment should be undertaken if reduced night vision is suspected.
- (F) Visual fields may initially be assessed using confrontation tests (Donders, etc.) and any indication of limitation or the presence of a medical condition where visual field loss can occur should lead to more detailed investigation.

Table (1): National Standards

(Minimum eyesight standards for pre-seafarers)

National regulation	Category of seafarer	Distance vision Unaided*		Near/ immediate Vision	Colour Vision ³	Visual fields ⁴	Night blindness ⁴	Diplopia (double vision) ⁴
		One eye	Other Eye	Both eyes together, aided or unaided				
New entrants / pre-seafarers	Any pre-seafarers will have required to undertake look-out duties	0.5 ²	0.5	Vision required for ship's navigation (e.g., chart and nautical publication reference, use of bridge instrumentation and equipment, and identification of aids to navigation)	See Note 6	Normal Visual Fields	Vision required to perform all Necessary functions in darkness without compromise	No significant condition evident

Notes:

* Values given in Snellen decimal notation. Any pre-seafarers other than those intend serve in deck department are allowed to use spectacles or contact lenses if needed.

Table (2): STCW Code Table A-I/9
(Minimum in-service eyesight standards for seafarers)

STCW Convention regulation	Category of seafarer	Distance vision Aided ¹		Near/ immediate Vision	Colour Vision ³	Visual fields ⁴	Night blindness ⁴	Diplopia (double vision) ⁴
		One Eye	Other Eye	Both eyes together, aided or unaided				
I/11 II/1 II/2 II/3 II/4 II/5 VII/2	Masters, deck officers and ratings required to undertake look-out duties	0.5 ²	0.5	Vision required for ship's navigation (e.g., chart and nautical publication reference, use of bridge instrumentation and equipment, and identification of aids to navigation)	See Note 6	Normal Visual Fields	Vision required to perform all Necessary functions in darkness without compromise	No significant condition evident
I/11 III/1 III/2 III/3 III/4 III/5 III/6 III/7 VII/2	All engineer officers, electro-technical officers, electro-technical ratings and ratings or others forming part of an engine room watch	0.4 ³	0.4 (see Note 5)	Vision required to read instruments in close proximity, to operate equipment, and to identify systems/ components as necessary	See Note 7	Sufficient visual fields	Vision required to perform all necessary functions in darkness without compromise	No significant condition evident
I/11 IV/2	GMDSS Radio operators	0.4	0.4	Vision required to read instruments in close proximity, to operate equipment, and to identify systems / components as necessary	See Note 7	Sufficient visual fields	Vision required to perform all necessary functions in darkness without compromise	No significant condition evident Notes:

Notes:

- ¹ Values given in Snellen decimal notation.
- ² A value of at least 0.7 in one eye is recommended to reduce the risk of undetected underlying eye disease.
- ³ As defined in the International Recommendations for Colour Vision Requirements for Transport by the Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage (CIE-143-2001 including any subsequent versions).
- ⁴ Subject to assessment by a clinical vision specialist where indicated by initial examination findings
- ⁵ Engine department personnel shall have a combined eyesight vision of at least 0.4.
- ⁶ CIE colour vision standard 1 or 2.
- ⁷ CIE colour vision standard 1, 2 or 3.

Visual correction

2. Medical doctors should advise persons who need spectacles or contact lenses to perform their duties that they should also carry with them a spare pair of spectacles or contact lenses.
3. All seafarers who have passed the eyesight test using aids to vision should use them when on watch and should have a spare pair of spectacles or contact lenses, as required, conveniently available on board the ship.