

INFORMATION FOR PHYSICIANS AND OTHER LICENSED HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

I. The 719K Merchant Mariner Credential Medical Examination Report:

Tips for Performing the Physical Examination

- Insure that all blocks are filled in on examination forms. Forms with missing information will incur delays in processing.
- **Section III Medications:** Verify that ALL medications, vitamins, dietary supplements, and/or performance enhancing substances are listed with dosages and frequency. This includes both prescription and non-prescription substances.
- **Section IV Certification of Medical Conditions:** Review and verify the medical history as reported by the mariner. Provide details of conditions as indicated on the form and aid the mariner in submitting the supporting medical documentation needed for the conditions. The requirements for this supporting documentation are listed in the [NVIC 04-08](#).
 - Please see the Top 10 Medical Conditions section of the NMC website for more information including supporting documentation requirements and evaluation information. For information on requirements for other conditions, please see NVIC 04-08
 - Failure to provide supporting medical documentation for conditions can lead to significant delays in processing and evaluations.
- **Section V (a) Visual Acuity:** Insure that both corrected AND uncorrected visual acuity is recorded, if applicable.
- **Section V (b) Color Vision:** Non-standardized tests are not acceptable at this time. This includes yarn tests, crayons, pointing out primary colors in your office, etc. Please contact the NMC for any questions regarding the tests listed or to determine if an alternative test is acceptable prior to submitting form.
- **Section VI Hearing:** Instructions are as follows:
 - An Applicant with normal hearing by forced whispered voice >5 feet without hearing aids does not need to complete either the audiometer test or the functional speech discrimination test.
 - If abnormal hearing or hearing aids required, then perform audiogram documenting thresholds and averages as indicated below. Both aided and unaided values should be recorded for Applicants requiring hearing aids.
 - Functional speech discrimination testing at 55dB is required for Applicants with an unaided threshold of >30dB in either ear and for all Applicants requiring hearing aids.
 - Refer to enclosure (5) of NVIC 04-08 for further guidance. Report any additional information or comments in Section VII.
- **Section VII Physical Examination:** Please insure that all boxes are completed, including calculated Body Mass Index (BMI). Please use the Comments Section to describe any abnormalities found on physical examination or to elucidate on the Applicant's medical history/conditions from Section IV.

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- **Section VIII Demonstration of Physical Ability:**

- If the examining medical practitioner doubts the applicant's ability to meet the guidelines contained within this table, and for all applicants with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 40.0 or higher, the practitioner should require that the applicant demonstrate the ability to meet the guidelines. A description of the methods utilized by the medical practitioner should be reported on the CG-719K or CG-719K/E (or approved equivalent form) as appropriate.
- All demonstrations of ability should be performed by the applicant without assistance.
- Any prosthesis normally worn by the applicant and other aid devices such as prescription glasses may be used by the applicant in all practical demonstrations except when the use of such would prevent the proper wearing of mandated personal protective equipment (PPE).
- If an applicant is unable to meet any of the guidelines contained within this table, the examining medical practitioner should provide information on the degree or severity of the applicant's inability to meet the guidelines.

II. Fitness for Duty Determinations in General:

- Fitness for duty determinations require that medical practitioners understand the underlying physical condition, how that condition is impacted by service in the maritime environment, and how the condition itself can impact maritime and public safety. This involves knowing not only the mariner but understanding the conditions in which he or she works and possibly lives.
 - Seafarers work in a multitude of environments and conditions that can impact their physical condition and may prevent them from obtaining timely medical care. Remote locations with minimal, if any, medical resources can be common and the loss of a functioning mariner on a vessel can significantly impact the rest of the crew, both in regards to routine and emergency duties.
- Medical conditions need to be considered in respect to their existing functional impairments, stability, need for surveillance, and risk of incapacitation.
 - Medical practitioners should consider medication needs, possible impairment or incapacitation from medications, and consequences of missed dosages or lost medications on the condition.
- Physical ability requirements are discussed in Enclosure (2) of the [NVIC 04-08](#) and must be considered in relation to the seafarer's medical condition. It should be understood that mariners must be able to perform both routine and emergency procedures.
 - Medical conditions that preclude performance of these duties increase risk to the remaining crew, to property, and to public safety.
- Recommendations for fitness for duty by treating practitioners will be taken into consideration by Coast Guard personnel performing evaluations. It should be noted, however, that treating practitioners often make recommendations without fully understanding fitness for duty guidelines and Marine Transportation System (MTS) safety needs. Final determinations will be made in accordance with the overriding safety needs of the MTS.