

MERCHANT SHIPPING (TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND SAFE MANNING) REGULATIONS, 2021 - SEAFARER'S MEDICALS

ALL SAMSA PERSONNEL, SEAFARERS, SAMSA APPROVED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, SHIP OWNERS, SHIP MANAGERS, SEAFARERS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

ISSUE DATE	EXPIRY DATE	REFERENCE
17 November 2021	16 November 2022 or unless withdrawn	SM6/5/2/1/MN

Marine Notice's affected

Cancelled or superseded:	None	Read in conjunction with:	Not Applicable
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SUMMARY

To provide guidelines for interim measures regarding the issue of seafarers medical certificates valid for two years as set out in the Merchant Shipping (Training, Certification and Safe Manning) Regulations, 2021

1. The Merchant Shipping (Training, Certification and Safe Manning) Regulations, 2021 (the Regulations), were promulgated on 23 April 2021 and *repealed* the Merchant Shipping (Eyesight and Medical Examinations) Regulations, 2004, published by Government Notice No. R. 1197 of 2004 of 15 October 2004 (the 2004 Regulations).
2. All approvals for Medical Practitioners that existed immediately prior to the Regulations being published shall remain valid until the expiry date set on the accreditation certificate issued.
3. The Regulations have changed the validity of Seafarers Medical Certificates from one year to two years from date of issue. SAMSA have noted that both seafarers and medical practitioners will be faced with the following immediate challenges:
 - 3.1. Medical certificates currently reference the repealed 2004 Regulations.
Interim measure: the Medical Practitioners shall amend this part by striking through the reference to "the Merchant Shipping (Eyesight and Medical Examinations) Regulations, 2004, as amended" as shown in the annex and inserting the reference to the 2021 Regulations
 - 3.2. Expiry Date of Certificate field reflects a "No more than 1 year from the date of examination" statement.
Interim measure: The Medical Practitioner shall strike through and amend this text to reflect a validity of two years unless there are any exclusionary medical conditions.
 - 3.3. A medical certificate may only be amended (only the copy issued to the Seafarer) as shown in the annex, the Medical Practitioner shall put their initials next to each change.
4. Medical certificates issued between the 23rd April 2021 and the publication of this Marine Notice remain valid as issued.
5. New format medical certificates are currently being developed.
6. In the event of any queries, these should be directed to the Office of the Chief Examiner at exams@samsa.org.za

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