

RESOLUTION MSC.579(110) (adopted on 20 June 2025)
ACCESSIBILITY OF INFORMATION ON SEAFARER MEDICAL CERTIFICATES
AND MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS RECOGNIZED FOR THE PURPOSE OF
CONDUCTING SEAFARER MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

ANNEX 15

RESOLUTION MSC.579(110) (adopted on 20 June 2025)

ACCESSIBILITY OF INFORMATION ON SEAFARER MEDICAL CERTIFICATES AND MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS RECOGNIZED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING SEAFARER MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Articles 28(a) and 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization with respect to the functions of the Maritime Safety Committee,

RECOGNIZING that regulation I/9 of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 ("the 1978 STCW Convention") requires seafarers serving at sea to hold a valid medical certificate that complies with the medical standards described in section A-I/9 of the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code (STCW) Code.

BEARING IN MIND that article VI(1) of the 1978 STCW Convention requires that certificates for masters, officers or ratings shall be issued to those candidates who, to the satisfaction of the Administration, meet the requirements for medical fitness, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code,

TAKING into consideration regulation I/9.2 of the 1978 STCW Convention which requires that each Party shall ensure that those responsible for assessing the medical fitness of seafarers are medical practitioners recognized by the Party for the purpose of seafarer medical examinations,

RECALLING regulation I/9.6 of the 1978 STCW Convention, which states that, if the period of validity of a medical certificate expires in the course of a voyage, then the medical certificate shall continue in force until the next port of call where a medical practitioner recognized by the Party is available, provided that the period shall not exceed three months,

CONSIDERING that Parties may need access to information on recognized medical practitioners in specific ports,

1 DETERMINES that, in accordance with regulations I/14.1.1 and 14.1.4, requiring companies to ensure that seafarers assigned to their ships hold appropriate certification in accordance with the provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention and as established by Administrations and to ensure that documentation and data relevant to medical fitness of seafarers is maintained and readily accessible, respectively, companies must therefore have the means to verify the validity of a seafarer's medical certificate;

2 INVITES Parties to recall that section A-I/9, paragraph 4 of the STCW Code requires that a register of recognized medical practitioners shall be maintained and made available upon request, and, in this regard, encourages Parties to consider publishing such information through the official websites of authorized government organizations, which should be made available in English;

3 ALSO INVITES Parties to note the necessity of ensuring the prompt verification of the validity of seafarer medical certificates via the official websites of authorized government organizations, and making this information available in English;

4 REQUESTS the Secretary-General to consider encouraging Parties to provide information, on a voluntary basis on the official websites of authorized government organizations, where Parties can verify the validity of seafarer medical certificates, and providing access to their register of recognized medical practitioners in English through the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) portal.

RESOLUTION MSC.579(110) (adopted on 20 June 2025)
ACCESSIBILITY OF INFORMATION ON SEAFARER MEDICAL CERTIFICATES
AND MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS RECOGNIZED FOR THE PURPOSE OF
CONDUCTING SEAFARER MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS