



# SHIP SAFETY BULLETIN

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**Subject: Interim Measure – Provisional Marine Medical Certificates**

### *Purpose*

This bulletin aims to explain the interim measure Transport Canada Marine Safety and Security (TCMSS) will apply **immediately** to allow seafarers employed in the marine industry to continue their work without fear of enforcement action related to expired Provisional Medical Certificates.

### *Scope*

This bulletin applies to seafarers engaged on **domestic voyages between Canadian ports only** who hold a Provisional Medical Certificate, which carries an issue date between February 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

**Important Note:** This bulletin does not apply to seafarers engaged on international voyages.

### *Background*

The *Marine Personnel Regulations* require persons employed on ships to carry **original documents** with them that are valid.

When a seafarer is determined to be fit after a medical assessment, the medical examiner issues him or her a Provisional Medical Certificate, valid for no longer than 6 (six) months and send the examination report to TCMSS. The TCMSS Medical Program reviews this examination report then a Marine Medical Certificate, valid for no longer than 2 years from the date of the examination, is issued by the Minister.

### *Interim Measures*

**Keywords:**

1. Marine Medical
2. Domestic Voyage
3. Provisional Medical

**Questions concerning this Bulletin should be addressed to:**

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### Domestic Voyages

TCMSS **will not** enforce the expiry date recorded on the Provisional Medical Certificate for seafarers on domestic voyages.

TCMSS **will** allow seafarers on domestic voyages to use a Provisional Medical Certificate that was or will be issued between February, 2016 and December 31, 2016, in the following order:

- until they receive the Minister’s Marine Medical Certificate; **or**
- until they receive further correspondence from TCMSS Medical Program; **or**
- for up to 180 days past the expiry date.

#### **IF the seafarer:**

- Holds a Provisional Medical Certificate from an approved examiner with an assessment for duties as ‘Fit ’, ‘Fit with Limitation- Corrective Lenses Required’ or Fit with Limitation – Hearing aids required;

**Note:** Any other assessment or limitation on the Provisional Medical Certificate would not qualify for this interim measure.

- Always carries his/her original certificate when employed on board the vessel.
- Is engaged on Domestic voyages only;

**Note:** This measure will also apply to satisfy the master’s obligation under section 82 of the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 in respect of the seafarer’s medical requirements.

### International Voyages

This interim measure of regulatory enforcement applies to Domestic Voyages **only**. It does not apply to International voyages.

Seafarers on international voyages must meet the requirements of the Marine Personnel Regulations and carry a valid Provisional Medical Certificate issued by an approved examiner or a Marine Medical Certificate issued by the Minister.