

For discussion on
6 May 2025

Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development

**New Requirements for Application or Revalidation of
Local Certificates of Competency held by Local Vessel Operators**

Purpose

This paper aims to brief Members on the latest requirements for application or revalidation of local certificates of competency (“CoC”) held by local vessel operators.

Background

2. Coxswains and engine operators (collectively referred to as “operators”) are responsible for operating local vessels whose work is essential for maritime safety. To ensure that operators are qualified to perform the duties concerned, the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D) requires all local vessel operators to hold local CoCs. Local CoCs are issued by the Director of Marine.

3. Currently, applicants for local CoCs are not required to undergo any medical examination unless they are applying for a coxswain certificate¹. Once issued, a local CoC will remain valid until the holder reaches the age of 65.

4. When a holder of local CoC reaches the age of 65, he may apply to the Director of Marine for an extension of its validity period for three years. The validity period of a local CoC will be one year once the holder turns 71. Holders of local CoC (including coxswains and engine operators) are required to notify the Director of Marine as soon as possible if they suffer

¹ An applicant for a coxswain certificate must submit an eyesight test certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner or a registered optometrist. When a coxswain certificate holder reaches the age of 65 and wishes to apply for an extension of the validity period of the certificate, the holder is required to undergo another eyesight test.

from any physical or other disabilities which render them incapable of performing their duties on board a vessel.

5. To enhance maritime safety, the Marine Department (“MD”) commissioned teams of independent experts in 2013 and 2015 respectively to conduct studies on the safety requirements for locally licensed vessels in Hong Kong and compare them with the standards at other ports. After referring to the relevant licensing requirements in other administrations, the study recommended that MD should introduce a medical fitness certificate requirement for local CoCs.

6. To further study the issue, MD has set up an inter-departmental working group (“the Working Group”), comprising members from the Transport Department, the Labour Department and the Hospital Authority. After reviewing the medical assessment form and medical assessment guidelines developed by medical consultants experienced in medical examinations for seafarers, along with advice from medical experts of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians, the Working Group agreed that the medical assessment form and medical assessment guidelines concerned are suitable for evaluating the health condition of local vessel operators. A copy of the medical assessment form is attached in the **Annex**.

Latest requirements for medical fitness certificate

7. After consulting relevant stakeholders in the industry and obtaining their support, MD will revise the eligibility criteria for applying for or revalidating local CoCs by introducing a medical fitness certificate requirement to ensure that holders of local CoCs are physically fit to operate vessels. To ensure maritime safety while balancing the operational needs of the industry, the medical fitness certificate requirement will follow a two-tier system: Tier 1 covers all new applicants for the issuance of any level of local CoCs and applicants for revalidation of their CoCs; Tier 2 only covers persons operating specific categories of vessels such as those carrying passengers (i.e. Class I vessels) and those carrying dangerous goods (i.e. Class II vessels) (collectively referred to as “high-risk vessels”).

Tier 1 - All new and revalidation applications for local CoCs

8. All applicants for issuance of new local CoCs and revalidation of existing local CoCs are required to submit to MD a medical fitness certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner recognised by MD (“recognised medical practitioner”) together with the application form. Once a local CoC is issued or revalidated, the holder is not required to undergo another medical assessment during its validity period (except for persons operating high-risk vessels). In other words, holders of local CoCs who wish to revalidate their certificates after reaching the age of 65 will have to undergo a medical assessment every three years. After reaching the age of 71, a holder must undergo and pass a medical assessment every year in order to revalidate his/her certificate.

Tier 2 - Persons operating high-risk vessels

9. Considering the relatively higher maritime safety risks associated with operation of high-risk vessels, persons operating high-risk vessels are required to undergo a medical assessment once every five years to ensure that their physical condition is suitable for operating the relevant vessels. MD will specify an additional condition in the Operating Licence of high-risk vessels, stating that operators must possess a valid medical fitness certificate. If the conditions attached to an Operating Licence are breached, both the shipowner and the coxswain concerned shall commit an offence.

10. To ensure compliance by the industry, MD will verify the medical fitness certificates of the crew on board high-risk vessels during routine and special inspections. MD will also step up publicity among shipowners and coxswains of high-risk vessels to ensure that the industry is aware of the relevant requirements.

11. Currently, according to the guidelines promulgated by MD, coxswains of Class I vessels carrying more than 100 passengers are required to undergo a medical examination once every five years. When the eligibility criteria for applying for or revalidating a local CoC are revised, a medical assessment will replace the current medical examination, and a five-year transitional period will be introduced. During the

transitional period, MD will continue to accept valid medical examinations conducted within five years preceding the implementation of new requirements, obviating the need for the coxswains concerned to undergo another medical assessment in less than five years' time. However, once the validity of medical examination conducted before the implementation of the relevant new requirement expires, the coxswain concerned must undergo a medical assessment under the new requirement of medical fitness certificate.

12. To ensure that medical practitioners responsible for conducting medical assessments fully understand the shipboard duties of local crew, MD has been inviting registered medical practitioners to register as recognised medical practitioners through various medical groups and professional associations, as well as medical service providers, etc., since December last year to provide medical assessment services and issue medical fitness certificates to applicants/holders of CoCs. MD will provide recognised medical practitioners with relevant information on the general duties and physical requirements of local crew. As of April 2025, 76 registered medical practitioners have registered as recognised medical practitioners. MD will continue to encourage registered medical practitioners to sign up and maintain an updated list of recognised medical practitioners on its website for the industry's reference.

Consultation with the Industry

13. MD has held 20 briefing sessions to provide detailed explanation of the new arrangement and requirements to the industry, and has received support from various stakeholders, including the Local Vessels Advisory Committee, trade associations, trade unions and fishermen's associations. Stakeholders generally agree with the new arrangement's policy intent of enhancing maritime safety. Regarding the proposal of having the Government provide subsidies to industry practitioners for medical assessment, taking into account the challenges facing on public finances currently, MD has informed the stakeholders that no subsidy will be provided.

14. To enhance the industry's understanding of the medical assessment

methodology for local CoCs, MD, with the support from various stakeholders, arranged for 50 industry participants to partake in medical assessment trial runs in October 2024. The trial results show that the new medical assessment scheme is ready for implementation, and the industry generally agrees that the relevant criteria outlined in the medical assessment guidelines are clearly articulated. MD has also refined the overall medical assessment process based on the feedback from the participants.

Way Forward

15. MD will amend the “Examination Rules for Local Certificates of Competency” and the “Examination Rules for Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency” to update the qualifications for applying for and revalidating local CoCs by introducing the requirement to provide a medical fitness certificate; and include relevant terms when issuing or revalidating the Operating Licences of high-risk vessels to enforce the Tier 2 medical fitness certificate requirement on high-risk vessels. MD will implement the new arrangement in the second quarter of 2025 and inform the public of the relevant measures through Marine Department Notices.

16. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Transport and Logistics Bureau
Marine Department
April 2025



香港特別行政區政府海事處

MARINE DEPARTMENT

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

Medical Assessment Form
(Holder of Local Certificate of Competency)

健康評估表
(本地合格證明書持有人)

PART I — Personal Details

第I部分 — 個人資料

Surname 姓氏 (英文) :		Forename(s) in full 名 (英文) :			
Name in Chinese 姓名 (中文) :			Date of birth 出生日期 :		
H.K. Identity Card No. or Passport No. 香港身份證或護照號碼 :				Gender 性別 :	

PART II — Medical Assessment

第II部分 — 健康評估

This Part is to be completed by a Marine Department-registered medical practitioner (RMP). When completing this part, RMP should refer to the Marine Department's stipulated Guidelines for Conducting the Medical Assessment of Local Certificate of Competency Holders.

本部分由海事處認可醫生（“認可醫生”）填寫。在填寫本表格時，認可醫生應參照海事處發出的本地合格證明書持有人健康評估指引。

Risk Group 1 – Sudden Loss of Consciousness, Altered Awareness, Epilepsy and Sleep Disorders

第一組風險 — 突發性失去意識、知覺改變、腦癇和睡眠障礙

- 1 Does the applicant have a history of epilepsy or epileptic attack in the past five years? ☐ Yes 是 ☐ No 否
在過去五年中，申請人是否有患過腦癇症或腦癇發作病歷？
If ☒ YES, please give details of the last attack and the date when treatment ceased.
如 ☒ 是，請提供最近一次發作的資料和治療終止的日期

2	Did the applicant have blackout or an impairment of consciousness (including sleep apnoea) within the past two years? 在過去兩年內，申請人是否曾有昏厥或意識障礙（包括睡眠窒息症）？ If ☒ YES, has the applicant had following conditions? 如☒是，申請人是否有患過下列情況？ Seizure 發作 Migraine 偏頭痛 Sleep apnoea 睡眠窒息症 Narcolepsy 昏睡症 Malignant neoplasms 惡性腫瘤 Syncope 昏厥 Intracranial surgery/injury 顱內手術／受傷	☐ Yes 是 ☐ No 否
Risk Group 2 – Mental Health Conditions Including Alcohol and Substance Abuse 第二組風險 — 精神健康疾病，包括酒精和物質濫用		
3	Does the applicant have a history of regular use of any drugs (including prescribed medicine), substances or alcohol at any point over the past three years? 在過去三年的任何時候，申請人是否有定期使用任何藥物（包括處方藥）、物質或酒精的情況？ If ☒ YES, has the applicant had the following conditions? 如☒是，申請人是否有過下列情況？ Alcohol abuse 酗酒 Drug dependence/persistent substance abuse 藥物依賴／物質濫用	☐ Yes 是 ☐ No 否
4	Does the applicant have a history of mental health problems over the past five years? 在過去五年中，申請人是否有精神健康問題病歷？ If ☒ YES, has the applicant had the following conditions? 如☒是，申請人是否有過下列情況？ Acute psychosis 急性思覺失調 Mood/affective disorders 心境／情感障礙	☐ Yes 是 ☐ No 否
Risk Group 3 – Cardiovascular Disease 第三組風險 — 心臟及血管疾病		
5	Does the applicant have a history of cardiovascular conditions in the past year? 申請人在過去一年內是否有心臟及血管疾病病歷？ If ☒ YES, has the applicant had the following conditions? 如☒是，申請人是否有過下列情況？ Valvular heart disease 心臟瓣膜疾病 Congenital heart disease 先天性心臟病 Hypertension 高血壓 Cardiac event 心臟意外 Cardiac arrhythmias and conduction defects 心律不正及傳導缺陷 Ischaemic cerebrovascular disease 腦血管缺血性疾病 Implantation of cardiac pacemaker 植入心臟起搏器 Implantation of cardioverter defibrillator 植入心臟復律除顫器	☐ Yes 是 ☐ No 否

Risk Group 4 – Diabetes Mellitus 第四組風險 — 糖尿病			
6	Does the applicant have uncontrolled or insulin-treated diabetes mellitus? 申請人是否患有不受控制或使用胰島素治療的糖尿病？	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
Risk Group 5 – Medical Conditions Affecting Physical Capabilities 第五組風險 — 影響運動系統疾病			
7	Does the applicant have any conditions that significantly affect his/her mobility or his/her physical operation of a vessel? 申請人是否有任何嚴重影響其肢體活動功能或船舶實際操作的情況？ If ☒ YES, has the applicant had the following conditions? 如 ☒ 是，申請人是否有過下列情況？	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
	Artificial limbs 使用義肢	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
	Osteoarthritis 骨關節炎	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
	Multiple sclerosis 多發性硬化症	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
	Parkinson's disease 柏金遜症	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
	Obesity (BMI over 35) 肥胖症（體重指標超過35）	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
8	Does the applicant have Meniere's disease or other forms of chronic or recurrent disabling vertigo? 申請人是否患有美尼爾氏症（耳水不平衡）或其他形式的慢性或複發性致失能眩暈？	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
Risk Group 6 – Chronic Respiratory Disease 第六組風險 — 慢性呼吸系統疾病			
9	Does the applicant have any health problem affecting his/her lungs or breathing to the extent that it incapacitates him/her? 申請人是否有任何健康問題影響到其肺部或呼吸，致使其失去行動能力？ If ☒ YES, has the applicant had the following conditions? 如 ☒ 是，申請人是否有過下列情況？	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with usage of supplement oxygen 需要使用輔助氧氣的慢性阻塞性肺病	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
	Asthma 哮喘	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
Risk Group 7 – Medical Conditions Affecting Communication Ability 第七組風險 — 影響語言溝通能力疾病			
10	Does the applicant have unclear speech which will impair his/her ability to call for help during an emergency? 申請人有否言語不清，會影響其在緊急情況下尋求幫助的能力？	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
11	Is the applicant <u>unable</u> to hear a whispered voice in a quiet room? Hearing aids are acceptable provided that their use does not impede watch-keeping duties to be adequately performed. 申請人 <u>不能</u> 在環境肅靜的房間裡聽到耳語嗎？如不妨礙履行正常值班職責是允許使用助聽器。	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否

Risk Group 8 – Eye Disease			
第八組風險 — 眼科疾病			
12	Has the applicant been diagnosed with any chronic or progressive or recurrent eye disorders? 申請人是否被診斷患有任何慢性或漸進性或複發性眼部疾病? If ☒ YES, has the applicant had the following conditions? 如 ☒ 是，申請人是否有過下列情況？	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
	Glaucoma 青光眼	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
	Maculopathy 黃斑病	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
	Diabetic retinopathy 糖尿病視網膜病變	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
Risk Group 9 – Medical Conditions Affecting Memory and Cognitive Function			
第九組風險 — 影響記憶及認知能力疾病			
13	Does the applicant have dementia or cognitive impairment? 申請人是否患有癡呆症或認知障礙? If ☒ YES, has the applicant had the following conditions? 如 ☒ 是，申請人是否有過下列情況？	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
	Alzheimer's Disease 阿滋海默症	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
	Vascular Dementia 血管性認知障礙症	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
	Mild Cognitive Impairment 輕度認知障礙	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
Other Medical Conditions			
其他醫療狀況			
14	Has the applicant used any medication that may impair his/her ability in performing routine and emergency duties? 申請人有否服用任何對其執行一般及應急職責的能力有負面影響的藥物？	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
15	Does the applicant have any conditions that can impair his/her fitness to operate a vessel? 申請人有否對操作船隻的適合性有負面影響的健康狀況？	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否
16	For a revalidation application: have there been any significant changes to the applicant's eyesight and hearing including visual or hearing aids that would affect his/her ability to perform duties? 如屬延展證明書期限申請：申請人的視力和聽力（包括使用助視器或助聽器）有否任何重大改變，而會影響其履行職責的能力？	☐ Yes 是	☐ No 否

If “Yes” was answered for any of the above, or if there are any medical conditions not included in the questions, or there is any additional information which could help with the health assessment, the assessing medical practitioner should provide details below:
如上述任何一項回答“是”，或有發現不在上述問題內所包括的健康狀況，或有任何附加資料有助於健康評估，負責評估的醫生應於此提供詳細資訊：

PART III — Basic Health Examination

第III部分 — 基本體格檢查

Height (cm): 身高 (厘米)	Weight (kg): 體重 (公斤)	Body Mass Index (BMI) 體重指標
_____	_____	_____
Urinary Glucose: 尿液化驗(尿糖)	Urinary Protein: 尿液化驗(尿蛋白)	$\frac{Weight(kg)}{[Height(m)]^2}$
_____	_____	
Pulse rate (per minute): 心率 (每分鐘)	Rhythm: 心律	
_____	_____	
Blood pressure (mm Hg): 血壓 (毫米汞)	$\left[\begin{array}{cc} \text{Systolic:} & \text{Diastolic:} \\ \text{收縮壓} & \text{舒張壓} \end{array} \right]$	
	_____	_____

Please give details of other relevant physical examination findings below (if applicable) :
請於此詳細說明其他相關體格檢查結果 (如適用) :

PART IV — Examinee's Declaration

第IV部分 — 體檢者聲明

I hereby confirm that the information given to the medical practitioner by me is truthful and that I have not concealed any information about my state of health.

我特此確認，我向醫生提供的資料是真實的，我沒有隱瞞任何有關我的健康狀況資料。

Signature of Examinee

體檢者簽署

Date 日期:

Medical Fitness Certificate 健康證明書

On the basis of my assessment recorded above, I certify that the applicant is medically:

根據我以上的評估記錄，我作出證明，申請人的健康評估為：

(Please tick one of the following blocks in sections A, B, or C)

(請在以下 A、B 或 C 部分中勾選一方框)

- A. Fit to operate a local vessel: Without restrictions ☐ With restrictions: ☐
適合操作本地船隻 沒有限制 設有限制
- B. Unfit to operate a local vessel: ☐
不適合操作本地船隻
- C. Based on the available health information, the applicant's fitness is considered doubtful, and the applicant is required to undergo a further medical examination on [] item by a medical specialist or provide evidence of treatment for the condition concerned for his/her health status to be considered acceptable. ☐
根據現有的健康資訊，申請人的健康狀況被認為有疑問，需要接受由專科醫生對
[] 項目進行進一步檢查或提供治療證明以確認其健康狀況被接受。

Remarks and description of restrictions if applicable:

備註及具體說明何種限制（如適用）

This medical fitness certificate is valid until* : DD/MM/YYYY
本健康證明書有效期至

Date
日期

Signature of Medical Practitioner
醫生簽署

Registration No.
註冊編號

Stamp of Medical Practitioner
醫生蓋印

* RMP may issue a certificate of medical fitness for a lesser period if appropriate.
如需要，認可醫生可簽發較短期限的健康證明書。

Certificate issue duration	證書有效期限	Age	年齡
Up to 5 years	不多於五年	18 to 64 years old	18 歲或以上但未滿65歲
Up to 3 years	不多於三年	65 to 69 years old	65 歲或以上但未滿70歲
Up to 1 year	不多於一年	70 years old or more	年滿70歲或以上

Guidance Notes 填表須知

At the time of the initial issue/revalidation of the Local Certificate of Competency or serving on the specified type of local vessel, an applicant is required to hold a valid Medical Fitness Certificate (Holder of Local Certificate of Competency).

本地合格證明書在首次簽發／延展期限，或在指明類型本地船隻上工作時，申請人需要持有有效的健康證明書（本地合格證明書持有人）。

The primary objectives of a medical assessment of fitness for duty at sea are:

- to ensure that individuals are fit to perform the essential tasks of their job at sea effectively; and
- to anticipate and where possible, prevent the avoidable occurrence of ill-health offshore which could place individuals, their colleagues, passengers and emergency personnel at risk.

履行海上職責人士而進行健康評估的主要目的為：

- 確保個人適合有效地執行海上工作的基本任務，和
- 在預計有可能發生的情況下，避免離岸工作中因身體欠佳狀況出現對個人、伙伴、乘客及應急人員構成危害。

Notes of applicants 申請人須知

- 1 The information on the medical assessment form will be used by the Marine Department to determine if an applicant is medically fit to operate a local vessel.

海事處對健康評估表上的資料用於評估申請人的健康狀況是否適合操作本地船隻。

- 2 This form is to be submitted to the Marine Department for the application or revalidation of Local Certificate of Competency.

此表格提交給海事處作申請本地合格證明書或本地合格證明書續期之用。

- 3 Having a medical condition will not necessarily debar an applicant from working onboard a local vessel. Whether the applicant concerned will be allowed to work onboard a local vessel with medical conditions will depend on the nature of the medical conditions, results of the medical assessment, together with the circumstances and mode of vessel operation.

有醫療狀況的申請人不一定會被禁止在本地船上工作，而是會因應醫療狀況的性質、醫療評估的結果，以及有關情況和船隻操作模式作考慮。

- 4 When an applicant normally uses visual aids or hearing aids, they must be used during the medical examination. An applicant should provide his/her medical record to medical practitioner for reference if needed.

如申請人一般需使用助視鏡或助聽器，則在接受健康檢查時必須配帶。如有需要，申請人應提供其病歷報告給醫生作參考。

- 5 Each valid medical fitness certificate can only be used for a one-time application to extend the validity of each type of local certificate of competency. Applications for the initial issuance of local certificates of competency are not subject to this restriction.

每份有效的健康證明書只可作出一次性辦理每類別本地合格證明書的延展期限申請使用。本地合格證明書的首次簽發申請則不受此限制。

- 6 Any person who makes, assists in making or procures to be made any false representation for the purpose of procuring, either for himself or for any other person, a local certificate of competency commits an offence.

任何人如為了為自己或他人取得本地合格證明書，作出或協助作出任何虛假陳述，或促致作出任何虛假陳述，即屬犯罪。

Personal Data Collection Statement

收集個人資料聲明

1. Purposes of Collection 收集目的

The personal data provided by means of this form will be used by the Marine Department for the following purposes:

海事處會使用透過本表格所獲得的個人資料作下列用途：

- (a) activities relating to the processing of your application for a Local Certificate of Competency; 辦理有關審批你所提出申請本地合格證明書的事務；
- (b) facilitating communication between the Marine Department and yourself; 方便海事處與你聯絡；
- (c) assisting in the enforcement of any other Ordinances and Regulations by other Government Bureaux and Departments; 藉此協助其他政府決策局和部門執行其他法例和規例；
- (d) limited personal data of successful applicants may be used via the Marine Department's Internet website for verification of the issued certificate by any third party; and 成功申請人的有限個人資料會用於海事處的互聯網網頁以供第三者查證本處所發出的證書；以及
- (e) for statistics and research purposes on the condition that the resulting statistics or results will not be made available in a form which will identify the data subjects. 供作統計及研究用途，但所得的統計數字或研究成果，不會以能辨識各有關的資料當事人或其中任何人的身份的形式提供。

2. Classes of Transferees 獲轉交資料的部門／人士

The personal data you provided by means of this form may be disclosed to other Government Bureaux and Departments for the purposes mentioned in paragraph 1 above.

你透過本表格所提供的個人資料會向其他政府部門、決策局及有關機構，以作上述第 1 段所列的用途。

3. Access to Personal Data 索閱個人資料

You have a right of access and correction with respect to personal data as provided for in Sections 18 and 22 and Principle 6 of Schedule 1 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. Your right of access includes the right to obtain a copy of your personal data provided by this form.

根據《個人資料(私隱)條例》第 18 及 22 條及附表 1 第 6 條，你有權索閱及修正你的個人資料。你的索閱權包括獲取本申請表所提供的個人資料副本一份。

4. Enquires 查詢

Enquiries concerning the personal data collected by means of this form, including the making of access and correction, should be addressed to:

有關透過本申請表收集的個人資料的查詢，包括索閱及修正資料，應寄往：

Officer-in-charge
River Trade and Local Examination Section
Marine Department
Room 303, 3/F, Harbour Building 38 Pier Road, Central
Hong Kong

香港
中環統一碼頭道38號
海港政府大樓3樓303室
內河航行及本地考試組主管