



Marine Notice 4/2011

Medical examinations leading to the issue of a Certificate of Medical Fitness – changes to gaining a seafarers medical

This Marine Notice advises seafarers, Coastal Pilots, shipowners and other sectors of the maritime industry of changes to the administration of medical examinations leading to the issue of a Certificate of Medical Fitness as required by *Marine Orders Part 9 Health – Medical Fitness (MO9)*.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has a statutory responsibility to ensure that medical examinations of Australian seafarers and Coastal Pilots are conducted at a consistent standard across the country and that they remain in line with Australia's obligations under both the *International Labour Organization's Medical Examination (Seafarers) Convention, 1946* (ILO Convention 073) and Regulation I/9 of the *International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978, as amended*.

Commencing on 1 June 2011, the administration of all AMSA medical examinations leading to the issue of a Certificate of Medical Fitness under *Marine Orders Part 9*, including the booking of an appointment, will be administered by Health Services Australia (trading as Medibank Health Solutions (MHS)) on behalf of AMSA.

A key element of the new service will be the establishment of a central booking system for all AMSA medical examinations. Upon calling the toll free central booking telephone number the seafarer will be asked their location and to nominate a day and time on which they wish the medical examination to be conducted. The appointment will then be arranged by MHS and the seafarer will be contacted and informed of their medical examination arrangements. The number to call to book an AMSA medical examination will be: **1300 277 904**.

A three month transition period will apply from **1 March 2011 to 31 May 2011**, where a seafarer may elect to make their appointment for an AMSA medical examination through either the new central booking system or by contacting an existing Medical Inspector of Seamen (MIS), as listed on the AMSA website: www.amsa.gov.au.

As of **1 June 2011**, all AMSA medical examinations leading to the issue of a Certificate of Medical Fitness must be booked through the new central booking system administered by MHS on 1300 277 904. From this date seafarers will no longer be able to make appointments directly with the Medical Inspector of Seamen.

For more information please visit the AMSA website: www.amsa.gov.au

Please forward any questions to:
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