

CIRCULAR SDC-158 (26)

Title:	Belize Medical Certification Required for Seafarers		
To:	Deputy Registrars, Ship Owners and Operators, Seafarers, Crewing Agents, Authorized Belize Filing Agents, Medical Practitioners, Port State Control Authorities		
Issuance Date:	1 st July 2026	Effective Date:	1 st July 2026
Version:	1.1	Circular Superseded:	SDC-118 (26)

1. REFERENCE

- International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended – Regulation I/9 [2]
- Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006, as amended – Regulation 1.2
- ILO/WHO

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) continues to strengthen the integrity, security, and regulatory oversight of seafarer documentation issued under the Belize Flag. As part of this initiative, IMMARBE utilizing approved electronic medical certification systems, establishing a centralized digital framework for the registration of Medical Practitioners and the issuance of medical certificates for seafarers serving aboard Belize-flagged vessels or for the issuance of a Belize Certificate of Competency (CoC) or Certificate of Proficiency (CoP).
- 2.2 This measure enhances compliance with STCW requirements, improves traceability, and ensures that all medical certificates relied upon by this Administration are issued in a controlled, standardized, and verifiable manner through recognized digital platforms.
- 2.3 The Administration reserves the right to authorize additional digital solution providers to facilitate these services. IMMARBE will provide regular updates regarding newly approved electronic platforms and service providers via subsequent Notices or official circular updates.

Inquiries concerning the subject of this circular any other request should be directed to: Technical and Seafarer Department, seafarerservices@immarbe.com

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3. PURPOSE

- 3.1 This Circular serves to inform all relevant stakeholders of the updated requirements regarding medical certificates for seafarers and the use of approved electronic processing systems:
- 3.2 The use of an approved electronic medical certification system remains mandatory for the registration of Medical Practitioners and the issuance of medical certificates required for a Belize Certificate of Competency (CoC) or Certificate of Proficiency (CoP).
- 3.3 For the processing of a Certificate of Endorsement, this Administration will accept medical certificates issued either through an IMMARBE-approved digital application, medical fitness certificates issued by the seafarers' national maritime administrations, or directly by recognized doctors approved by their respective national maritime administrations

4. REGISTRATION & APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 For Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoP)

- 4.1.1 Medical Practitioners conducting examinations for seafarers applying for a Belize CoC or CoP must be registered and approved by this Administration via an approved electronic medical certification system.
- 4.1.2 Medical Practitioners recognized by an STCW Party and compliant with STCW Regulation I/9 are eligible to apply for recognition through the Administration's designated online registration portals using the appropriate registration pathways.
 - a. www.medcerts-int.com using the *Apply for Belize Registration* tab.
- 4.1.3 For CoC and CoP applications, medical certificates issued by practitioners who are not registered in an approved electronic system will not be accepted except in cases where no approved doctors are available. In such cases, IMMARBE may accept medical certificates issued by recognized doctors approved by their respective national maritime administrations.

4.2 For Certificates of Endorsement

- 4.2.1 Seafarers applying for a Belize Certificate of Endorsement may fulfil their medical examination requirements through a Belize-approved practitioner via an approved digital application, Medical Fitness Certificates issued by the seafarers' national maritime

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administrations **OR** directly by recognized doctors approved by their respective national maritime administrations.

4.2.2 The list of IMMARBE-approved medical practitioners can be found on the below designated verification portals.

a. www.medcerts-int.com/belize_approved_doctors.php.

5. PROGRAM DETAILS

5.1 **Approval Validity:** Three (3) years per Medical Practitioner

5.2 **Application Fee:** USD \$275.00 (one-time registration fee per approval period)

5.3 **Certificate Fee:** USD \$25.00 per medical certificate issued

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 All stakeholders are requested to take note of these updated terms and ensure alignment with the respective certification pathways. This balanced approach maintains strict regulatory oversight for primary flag certifications while ensuring flexibility and continuity for endorsement processing.



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