

TOWING SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TSAC)

TASK STATEMENT

TASK #07-03

I. TASK TITLE

Revision of forms CG-719K, “Merchant Mariner Physical Examination Report” and CG-719K/E, “Merchant Marine Certification of Fitness for Entry Level Ratings.”

II. HISTORY

MERPAC has previously provided recommendations in response to a number of task statements related to medical and physical standards for merchant mariners, most recently with regard to task statement 53, “Medical Certification Standards and Disqualifying Medical Conditions for Merchant Mariners” and task statement 61, “Merchant Mariner Medical Waiver Evaluation Guidelines.”

Task statement 53 included review of a previous version of a draft medical NVIC provided by the Coast Guard. MERPAC voted to accept the recommendations of the medical working group at meeting #25 in Washington, DC in April 06, as follows: “While much work has gone into the draft NVIC, the working group still has concerns to address. However, the working group believes that moving forward with this NVIC and the clarification it provides is important for both the mariners and the Coast Guard. We agree with the Coast Guard that the end goal has merit, and the draft of this revision is better than the existing NVIC 2-98. We endorse the draft with the following recommendations...”

One of the stated recommendations was: “Revision of physical examination forms (719K and 719KE). MERPAC stressed to Coast Guard the need for revision of the above forms, and encourages CG to expedite new forms as soon as the final requirements of the NVIC are determined, because these documents are most effective when used together. Recommended revision of the form that includes the following...” [Enclosure (1)].

III. BACKGROUND

The CG-719K was last revised in March 2004 [Enclosure (2)]. It is used to document the physical and medical condition of applicants for licenses and qualified ratings (e.g. AB, QMED & Tankerman). It is completed and signed by both the applicant and the examining medical practitioner.

The CG-719-K/E was last revised in March 2004 [Enclosure (3)]. It is used to document that applicants for entry level ratings (e.g. OS, Wiper & Steward’s Department) on seagoing vessels of 200 GRT or more have the physical ability to perform the listed duties. It is completed and signed by both the applicant and the examining medical practitioner.

Entry level ratings limited to service on non-seagoing vessels and/or on seagoing vessels of less than 200 GRT have no medical or physical requirements, so there is no form for them to complete.

IV. TASK

Revised draft CG-719K & CG-719K/E forms are attached [Enclosures (4) & (5)]. TSAC will engage the Medical NVIC Working Group in a thorough, comprehensive review of these draft forms, in comparison with the current forms (which were last revised in 2004), and provide recommendations as to any changes that may be appropriate. In making these recommendations, it is also requested that TSAC state with respect to previous versions of the draft medical NVIC, whether they support the revised forms.

V. ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE TASK

Provide recommendations to the Coast Guard, at the latest, by the conclusion of the Spring 2008 meeting, if not sooner.

VI. COAST GUARD TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Arthur J. French, Captain, USPHS (NMC Medical Evaluations Branch),
304-728-9198, e-mail: arthur.j.french@uscg.mil

LCDR Derek A. D'Orazio, USCG (CG-3PSO-1), 202-372-1405,
e-mail: derek.a.dorazio@uscg.mil.

Mr. Mario Muñoz
Chairman
TSAC

Michael L. Blair
Captain, USCG
Executive Director, TSAC

Enclosure (1): MERPAC recommendations, task statement 53.

Enclosure (2): CG-719K, dated March 2004. (Available at NMC Medical Web site)

Enclosure (3): CG-719K/E, dated March 2004. (Available at NMC Medical Web site)