



CIRCULAR SDC-118 (26)

Title:	Implementation of the MedCert Platform for the Registration of Medical Practitioners and Issuance of Medical Certificates 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 June 2026	Effective Date:	15 th July 2026
Revision No:	“N/A”	MMN Superseded:	“N/A”

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 has implemented the MedCert Platform, a centralized digital platform for the registration of Medical Practitioners and the issuance of medical certificates for seafarers serving aboard Belize-flagged vessels.

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.

3. PURPOSE

These Circular serves to inform all relevant stakeholders of the **mandatory use of the MedCert Platform** for:

3.1 The recognition and approval of Medical Practitioners; and

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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3.2 The issuance of medical certificates required for seafarers employed on board Belize-flagged vessels.

4. MANDATORY REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

- 4.1 IMMARBE hereby mandates that all Medical Practitioners conducting medical examinations for seafarers intended to serve aboard Belize-flagged ships or applying for a Belize Certificate of Competency (COC) or Certificate of Proficiency (COP) must be registered and approved by this Administration.
- 4.2 Medical Practitioners recognized by an STCW Party and compliant with STCW Regulation I/9 are eligible to apply for recognition by IMMARBE.
- 4.3 Applications should be made via the link provided here www.medcerts-int.com using the Apply for Belize Registration tab.
- 4.4 Medical certificates issued by practitioners who are not approved by IMMARBE and duly registered in the Medcert Platform after **15th July 2026** will not be accepted for the purpose of seafarer documentation or service.
- 4.5 Seafarers intended to serve aboard Belize flagged ships and require a Certificate of Endorsement, a Belize Certificate of Competency (COC) or Certificate of Proficiency (COP) must conduct their medical examination with a Belize approved medical practitioner.
- 4.6 The issued medical certificate must be uploaded to the platform for verification before any service can be rendered to the seafarer.
- 4.7 The list of approved medical practitioners can be found at www.medcerts-int.com/belize_approved_doctors.php.

5. IMPLEMENTATION – MEDCERT APP

- 5.1 All applications for Medical Practitioner recognition shall be submitted exclusively through the MedCert App. The application process is fully online and includes the submission of professional credentials, valid medical licenses, and supporting documentation issued by the relevant national authority.

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Approval by IMMARBE, Medical Practitioners shall issue all medical certificates solely through the MedCert App. Certificates issued outside the platform will not be recognized by this Administration

6. PROGRAM DETAILS

- 6.1 **Approval Validity:** Three (3) years per Medical Practitioner
- 6.2 **Application Fee:** USD \$275.00 (one-time registration fee per approval period)
- 6.3 **Certificate Fee:** USD \$25.00 per medical certificate issued
- 6.4 **Payment Method:** Credit card via the MedCert App
- 6.5 **Digital Medical Certificate Deadline:** 15 July 2026

7. COMPLIANCE

- 7.1 Medical certificates issued through the MedCert App by IMMARBE-approved Medical Practitioners will be recognized for:
 - 7.1.1 processing of seafarer documentation; and
 - 7.1.2 authorization for service aboard Belize-flagged vessels.
- 7.2 Certificates issued by non-approved practitioners or outside the MedCert App will not be accepted under any circumstances.

8. CONCLUSION

All stakeholders are requested to take note of the above and ensure full compliance with this Circular. Timely registration under the MedCert App will ensure continuity in the issuance and acceptance of medical certificates and support IMMARBE's ongoing commitment to regulatory compliance and maritime safety.



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