

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF LICENSING AND REGULATION
Manila

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BUREAU CIRCULAR
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To : All Medical Clinics and Hospitals Accredited to Conduct Medical Examination of Overseas Contract Workers, and Seafarers, Recruitment Agencies, Manning Agencies, Companies, the POEA, MARINA, and all others concerned.

SUBJECT: Medical Examination Rating System for Overseas Contract Workers and Seafarers.

In order to have a uniform medical examination rating system of accredited medical clinics and hospitals for overseas contract workers and seafarers, the Department of Health has approved the following rating system that shall be followed in evaluating fitness of workers.

This is pursuant to Section B Article B.9 of Administrative Order No. 85-A series 1990 on the Rules governing Accreditation of Medical Clinics and hospitals and the Conduct of Medical Examination of Overseas Contract Workers and Seafarers.

Class A - Physically Fit

Class B - Physically fit but with minor ailment(s)/condition(s) curable within a short period of time, that will not adversely affect the workers efficiency.

Class C - With abnormal findings generally not acceptable for employment.

Class D - Unemployable

Pending - Those are cases that are equivocal as to the classification and are being evaluated further. After a certain period of time these cases will be classified whether fit or unfit for employment.

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The details for each class are discussed in the attached annex.

This medical rating system shall take effect immediately. All those concerned shall be guided accordingly.

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ATTEST:

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MEDICAL RATING SYSTEM FOR OVERSEAS CONTRACT
WORKERS AND SEAFARERS

CLASS A. Physically fit - applicant is in good health characterized by the absence of any physical defect or disease that may adversely affect his efficiency.

CLASS B. Physically fit but with minor ailment(s)/condition(s) and or curable within a short period of time, that will not adversely affect his work efficiency.

01 Minor dental defects

02 Intestinal parasitism

03 Mild urinary tract infection not more than 15 pus cells/hpf (male - 5-15) (female - 8-15); without casts.

04 Mild upper respiratory tract infection

05 External ear infection

06 Error of refraction, not more than 20/40 right eye 20/40 left eye or 20/40 for both corrected and uncorrected except drivers, electricians, divers, pilots, etc. ^(check, phar, controller) who need more acute sense of vision wherein the vision for each eye should not be more than 20/30.

* Audiometry and Ishihara (Color Blindness) Tests shall also be conducted to selective job categories of seamen applicants who have watchkeeping duties.

07 Minor skin infection

08 Anemia where hemoglobin does not fall below 10.5 gms.

09 Small hemorrhoid which is uncomplicated; less than 1 cm.

- 10 Small tumor or cyst, not more than 2 cm. in diameter and considered clinically benign at the time of examination.
- 11 Small Pterygium which does not encroach on the corneal boundary.
- 12 Varicose veins (small, asymptomatic and uncomplicated).
- 13 Blood Pressure of 150-159/90/93 (based on International Standard).
- 14 Soft systolic murmur no more than 2/6 and considered functional at the time of examination.

Soft systolic murmur not more than 3/6 or more shall be classified B only after clearance is obtained from a cardiologist.

- 15 Incomplete right bundle branch block and First Degree AV Block in the absence of any other manifestations and considered benign/insignificant at the time of examination.

ECG is suggested for those forty (40) years old and above.

- 16 Rectal Tag
- 17 Undescended testes
- 18 Perforated eardrum(s) not infected and without impairment of hearing in ordinary conversation except applicants to be employed in diving, aviation, telecommunications and similar professions which require good perception of sound SHALL BE RATED C.
- 19 Pulmonary tuberculosis, minimal, fibrocalcific, inactive, stable and arrested for an interval of at least six months, stability to be established by comparing x-ray films taken six months earlier or more and in cases of doubt additional diagnostic laboratory examination like ESR and Sputum exam for AFB should be done, except Domestic Helpers, Hotel and Restaurant Workers, Food

Handlers, Medical Workers, Paramedical
Workers who SHALL BE RATED C.

The following cases may outrightly be classified B
for all job categories even without comparative
films :

- a. Hairlike fibrotic scarring
- b. Calcific lymph nodes
- c. Punctuate calcifications considered of
no clinical significance.
- d. Few discrete mongo - like calcified
densities shall be considered Class B
provided ESR and Sputum tests are normal
and negative.
- e. Pleural thickening of no present
clinical significance.

* This regulation shall not apply to
applicants of countries which have
their own medical standards and
other employers who have their own
medical rating standards acceptable
to POEA.

- 20 Color blindness, except applicants to be
employed in work involving color detection or
preparation of coloring materials such as
drivers, pilots, seamen with watchkeeping
duties, cable spicers, electricians, medical
technologists, dye mixers and others who
SHALL BE RATED C.
- 21 Unilateral blindness provided the other eye
is at least 20/30 and the condition is
acceptable to the employer. (Except in jobs
requiring visual acuity for both eyes).
- 22 Amputations, old healed fractures,
deformities, atrophy and shortening of the
extremities and/or other parts of the body,
except applicants whose performance may be
affected by the defect in which case they
SHALL BE RATED C.
- 23 Underweight or overweight by NOT MORE than
fifteen (15) kgs. on the basis of the

standard weight for Filipinos according to height, frame and sex except Domestic Helpers who should not be underweight by more than ten (10) kilos.

- 24 History of asthma without evidence of active attack and with clearance from a Pulmonary Specialist.

CLASS C. With abnormal findings generally not acceptable for employment which include but is not limited to the following.

- 01 Perforated eardrum(s), unilateral, with impairment of hearing.
- 02 PTB, minimal, of undetermined activity, fibroid, fibrocaceous, fibro-productive.
- 03 Pneumonitis and other respiratory tract infections considered moderately serious.
- 04 Cardiac murmur considered organic at the time of examination.
- 05 Abnormal ECG findings, such as First degree AV Block, incomplete right bundle branch block, complete right bundle branch block considered secondary to organic heart disease.
- 06 BP of 160-179/94-100.
- 07 Anemia where hemoglobin falls below 10.5 gms.
- 08 Hernia - This condition may be upgraded after one month after surgical correction for workers not requiring strenuous work and three months for those requiring strenuous activities.
- 09 Thrombosed hemorrhoid may be upgraded one month after surgical correction.
- 10 Fistula in one may be upgraded one month after surgical correction.
- 11 Underweight or overweight by MORE THAN fifteen (15) kilos.
- 12 Underweight by more than ten (10) kilos, applicable to Domestic Helpers only!

- 13 Urinary tract infection of with pus cells of more than 15/hpf without casts, too numerous to count considered as moderately severe at the time of examination.
- 14 Mild to moderate elevation of Blood Sugar on the basis of Ortho-toluidine or Somogy Tests - 110 -140 mg %.
- 15 Extensive Ptyrygium encroaching on the corneal boundary or causing impairment of vision.
- 16 Eczematous dermatitis and other recurrent skin diseases.
- 17 Gonorrhoea
- 18 Reactive VDRL, this condition may be upgraded after clearance from an infectious Disease Specialist. (However, please refer also to memo from KSA stating that even those with history of or reactive VDRL tests even for visitors shall be rated Unfit).
- 19 Malaria manifested by a positive malaria test.
- 20 Pregnancy if noticeable and palpable or manifested by a positive pregnancy test.
- 21 Varicose veins (moderately dilated)
- 22 Other illnesses normally considered to be of the same or similar seriousness as those enumerated in this class.

The Grating of Domestic Helpers, Hotel and Restaurant Workers, and Hospital Workers is not eligible for upgrading except pregnancy cases upon normal delivery and spontaneous termination thereof.

CLASS D. * UNEMPLOYABLE - with serious illness that does not fall under any of the above categories like the following: malignancy, moderate to severe diabetes with elevated FBS level of 40 mg % (7.7 mmol %) and above, ECG findings like myocardial ischemia, infarction, 2nd and 3rd degree AV Block and other grave manifestations; bronchial asthma

(with wheezy breathing) and other chronic-pulmonary diseases, perforated eardrum, bilateral with impairment of hearing, goiter, toxic, moderate to far, advance Pulmonary tuberculosis; syphilis; and other illnesses which render the worker unemployable.

* Rating is not eligible for upgrading.

PENDING - those cases that are equivocal as to classification and are being evaluated further.