



United Kingdom Maritime Pilots' Association

Eng1 renewal for pilots during the Covid 19 Pandemic

[The current MCA advice is here](#)

Note that it does not refer to pilots who may hold an STCW certificate and who are thus not joining a ship but may be required to hold a valid STCW CoC by their CHA.

(This paper has been edited to maintain confidentiality).

As a result of urgent consultation with the MCA's Chief Medical Officer – the following advice to pilots has been received:

From Sally Bell, MCA Chief Medical Adviser:

As I understand it, although the ENG 1 medical examination is accepted for pilots by the CHA, the regulations and statutory standards on which it is based apply to seafarers and fishermen, hence any change in their interpretation would also be addressed to seafarers and fishermen. This does not prevent the CHA from continuing to request and accept the ENG 1 medical certificate:

- *There are people who will not be able to work without a face to face examination, hence an automatic extension is not appropriate, but the contingency plan was released in order to facilitate continuing services during the pandemic wherever possible.*
- *It is for the CHA to decide whether to accept the exceptions as described, but one would hope that they too are in favour of keeping key workers safely at work.*
- *It is for the Approved Doctor to risk assess whether the candidate should attend in person, or be granted the exception.*
- *Those who are not on-board ship (which would include pilots) would be eligible for the exception if they have a full 2-year ENG 1 certificate, but would need to have a telephone review in the case of a Time Limited certificate.*
- *As we do not know how long the current situation will continue, and there are seafarers who will be going away for tours longer than the 6 month extension might allow, we have not advised that all face to face examinations should cease (remembering also that we have Approved Doctors in countries other than the UK who are not all affected to the same extent).*

A pilot's Eng1 doctor has since contacted the MCA to clarify the situation and has been advised that he can conduct all ENG 1 medical renewals arising during this period by way of a pre-arranged telephone appointment. If there are no issues arising with the responses to given questions he will then grant a 6-month extension as per the MCA's revised medical guidelines. He will however in certain cases still require a face to face meeting before either an extension or medical renewal can then be granted.

The pilot also discussed with the doctor the cost of this extension which the doctor suggested should be £30, the 6-month extension being a quarter of the normal medical term, the cost of which is currently £105

Compiled
10th April 2020