

GENERAL INFORMATION	
KEYWORDS	Marine medical certificate, vision
FILE NO.	MA-0475-28
SECTOR (Marine or Aviation)	Marine
SPECIFIC JOB	Aspiring seafarer (deck service)
DIAGNOSIS (Primary, Secondary, etc.)	Myopia
REVIEW	
DATE OF DETERMINATION	June 4, 2018
MEMBER	Dr. Christopher Brooks
DETERMINATION	The Minister's decision is confirmed.
REASONS FOR THE DETERMINATION	Refusal to issue a marine medical certificate (MMC) — Although the applicant wears corrective lenses and was noted to have an uncorrected vision of 6/60 in both eyes that corrected to 6/6, the applicant was issued with a provisional MMC and underwent Marine Emergency Duties (MED) A1 training. At the request of Transport Canada, the applicant's vision was re-checked by an optometrist and it was found to be 20/400 in both eyes, which is below the minimum standards of uncorrected vision for a seafarer. Subsequently, his provisional MMC was cancelled. The applicant has myopia (20/400) and falls well short of the national and international standards for seafarers — the STCW Convention and STCW Code, the International Labour Organization/ International Maritime Organization (ILO/IMO) Guidelines, and Transport Canada's TP 11343E medical guidelines. The applicant was disappointed with the process of obtaining a provisional MMC, taking the training course and then having it cancelled. The member is recommending that in the future, any initial applicant who wears glasses or contact lenses for distance vision must provide a current (i.e. within one year) evaluation from an ophthalmologist or optometrist which includes an uncorrected distance visual measurement for each eye and both eyes together. The marine medical examiner can then simply transcribe the data on to the back of the medical examination report.
APPEAL	
DATE OF DECISION	
MEMBERS	
DECISION	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION	
OTHER/COMMENTS	