

STCW Code Table B-I/9

Assessment of minimum entry level and in-service physical abilities for seafarers³

Ref: <https://www.edumaritime.net/stcw-code> Source: IMO

Shipboard task, function, event or condition ³	Related physical ability	A medical examiner should be satisfied that the candidate ⁴
Routine movement around vessel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - on moving deck - between levels - between compartments <i>Note 1 applies to this row</i>	Maintain balance and move with agility Climb up and down vertical ladders and stairways Step over coamings (e.g., Load Line Convention requires coamings to be 600 mm high) Open and close watertight doors	Has no disturbance in sense of balance Does not have any impairment or disease that prevents relevant movements and physical activities Is, without assistance ⁵ , able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - climb vertical ladders and stairways - step over high sills - manipulate door closing systems
Routine tasks on board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of hand tools - Movement of ship's stores - Overhead work - Valve operation - Standing a four-hour watch - Working in confined spaces - Responding to alarms, warnings and instructions - Verbal communication <i>Note 1 applies to this row</i>	Strength, dexterity and stamina to manipulate mechanical devices Lift, pull and carry a load (e.g., 18 kg) Reach upwards Stand, walk and remain alert for an extended period Work in constricted spaces and move through restricted openings (e.g., SOLAS requires minimum openings in cargo spaces and emergency escapes to have the minimum dimensions of 600 mm × 600 mm – SOLAS regulation 3.6.5.1) Visually distinguish objects, shapes and signals Hear warnings and instructions Give a clear spoken description	Does not have a defined impairment or diagnosed medical condition that reduces ability to perform routine duties essential to the safe operation of the vessel Has ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work with arms raised - stand and walk for an extended period - enter confined space - fulfil eyesight standards (table A-I/9) - fulfil hearing standards set by competent authority or take account of international guidelines - hold normal conversation

Shipboard task, function, event or condition ³	Related physical ability	A medical examiner should be satisfied that the candidate ⁴
<p>Emergency duties⁶ on board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Escape - Fire-fighting - Evacuation <p><i>Note 2 applies to this row</i></p>	<p>Don a lifejacket or immersion suit</p> <p>Escape from smoke-filled spaces</p> <p>Take part in fire-fighting duties, including use of breathing apparatus</p> <p>Take part in vessel evacuation procedures</p>	<p>Does not have a defined impairment or diagnosed medical condition that reduces ability to perform emergency duties essential to the safe operation of the vessel</p> <p>Has ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - don lifejacket or immersion suit - crawl - feel for differences in temperature - handle fire-fighting equipment - wear breathing apparatus (where required as part of duties)

Notes:

- 1 Rows 1 and 2 of the above table describe (a) ordinary shipboard tasks, functions, events and conditions, (b) the corresponding physical abilities which may be considered necessary for the safety of a seafarer, other crew members and the ship, and (c) high-level criteria for use by medical practitioners assessing medical fitness, bearing in mind the different duties of seafarers and the nature of shipboard work for which they will be employed.
- 2 Row 3 of the above table describes (a) ordinary shipboard tasks, functions, events and conditions, (b) the corresponding physical abilities which should be considered necessary for the safety of a seafarer, other crew members and the ship, and (c) high-level criteria for use by medical practitioners assessing medical fitness, bearing in mind the different duties of seafarers and the nature of shipboard work for which they will be employed.
- 3 This table is not intended to address all possible shipboard conditions or potentially disqualifying medical conditions. Parties should specify physical abilities applicable to the category of seafarers (such as "Deck officer" and "Engine rating"). The special circumstances of individuals and for those who have specialized or limited duties should receive due consideration.
- 4 If in doubt, the medical practitioner should quantify the degree or severity of any relevant impairment by means of objective tests, whenever appropriate tests are available, or by referring the candidate for further assessment.
- 5 The term "assistance" means the use of another person to accomplish the task.
- 6 The term "emergency duties" is used to cover all standard emergency response situations such as abandon ship or fire fighting as well as the procedures to be followed by each seafarer to secure personal survival.