



OGUK Medical
Examinations

Memorandum

March 2020

Given:

- Increasing 'stridency' of UK government advice to general public to avoid contact with others whenever possible
- Advantage of 'reduced social contact' in minimising probability of offshore workers acquiring Covid-19 infection
- Clinical pressure on UK GPs (who comprise a significant proportion of UK examining doctors)
- Demand on industry occupational health services for advice and technical support on COVID-19 issues

It is considered that there is overall advantage in reducing the medical examination of offshore workers where local or national COVID-19 circumstances make this desirable.

Therefore, with immediate effect, for workers with OGUK medicals expiring within the next three months (i.e. to 30th June 2020), it is recommended that installation operators may decide that re-examination and recertification is not necessary, subject to the following:

A. Normal (Addendum 2) Certificates

An existing normal (addendum 2) certificate may continue to be considered valid until 30th June 2020, regardless of an existing expiry date before then.

B. Restricted (Addendum 3) Certificates

Existing expiry dates on restricted (addendum 3) certificates will continue to apply. Examining doctors may issue an extended addendum 3 certificate to a date no later than 30th June 2020 without face-to-face, in-person assessment of the holder, provided the doctor has conducted a 'remote' (telephone, videocall etc) consultation with the examinee, and has contacted the operator medical advisor for discussion in the usual manner.

The initial date of 30th June above may be extended, should circumstances suggesting this is appropriate continue.

Fit-to-Train assessments

The industry is reminded that certificates of fitness to train do not have an expiry date and remain valid on transfer from one employer to another. OPITO has issued advice on extension to BOSIET and FOET certification: the need for new fit-to-train certification is likely to reduce accordingly. For the small number of delegates requiring a fit-to-train assessment (because they have not previously had one and are attending a BOSIET for the first time, or a FOET because of inability to obtain extension to existing certification), the examining doctor may conduct the assessment by 'remote' means (telephone, videocall etc): if examination or spirometry is required, the examining doctor should default to a finding of 'unfit' to train – this will not prevent delegates gaining a survival certificate.

Fitness to return to work assessments

Fitness to return to work assessments should be conducted by 'remote' means (telephone, videocall etc) whenever possible. Examining doctors should reach conclusions on the basis of their professional judgement given the reasonably available clinical information in the circumstances.

Requests for clinical information reports from hospital clinicians/GPs

Examining doctors are reminded that pressures on clinically-practicing doctors are likely to be 'intense' currently; requests for medical reports are likely to be answered only after extreme delay, if at all. In the interests of reducing workload on stretched clinical treatment services, examining doctors should avoid requesting such reports if at all possible. Examining doctors are requested to make assessments on the basis of their professional judgement given the clinical information reasonably available. It is accepted that this may increase the risk of inappropriate judgements in the presence of inaccurate history from the examinee.

Survival training certification

OPITO has implemented a process for extension of survival certification where refresher training cannot be undertaken due to COVID-19 limitations. The OPITO process can be found here: <https://www.opito.com/covid19>.



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OGUK Technical Notes

Member companies dedicate specialist resources and technical expertise in providing technical notes in collaboration with Oil & Gas UK, demonstrating a commitment to continually improving and enhancing the performance of all offshore operations.

Technical Notes are part of the OGUK suite of Guidelines, free for our members.

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