

Chapter 4

EYESIGHT STANDARDS FOR PLEASURE VESSEL OPERATORS

4.1 The eyesight standards for pleasure vessel operators are as follows:-

		Eyesight Standards
Distant Vision with or without visual aid	Better eye Other eye	6/9 6/12
Near, Intermediate and colour vision, both eyes together, aided or unaided		Vision required for ship's navigation (e.g. chart and nautical publication reference, use of bridge instrumentation and equipment, identification of navigation aids)

4.2 Colour vision will be tested by Ishihara plates or equivalent.

4.3 All applicants for Pleasure Vessel Operator's Certificate of any grade (including new issue and extension) are required to provide a certificate (Marine Department Form MD 687 or MD 688*) issued by a registered medical practitioner or registered optometrist (either Part I or Part II optometrist) attesting that the applicant has attained the standards in paragraph 4.1 above within the 24 months (12 months in respect of an applicant 65 years of age and over) preceding the application will be accepted, the certificate shall remain valid at the time of examination (not applicable to extension).

<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/forms/pdf/md687.pdf>

<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/forms/pdf/md688.pdf>

* MD 688 (Eyesight Test Certificate – Local Vessel (Coxswain)) is used for Local Coxswain Certificate of Competency with higher eyesight standards.

4.4 Any applicant or candidate who fails in colour vision test can only operate a pleasure vessel for the period between sunrise and sunset, in such case his Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate will be endorsed as "Day time operation only and required to have another person who has reached the eyesight standard for pleasure vessel operator to assist him to perform lookout duty on board".

4.5 Any applicant or candidate who requires visual aids for passing the eyesight test in paragraph 4.1 above, his Pleasure Vessel Operator's Certificate will be endorsed as "with visual aids".

4.6 If the examiner is in doubt of the eyesight standard of an applicant, he may request the applicant to produce an eyesight test certificate signed by another registered practitioner or registered optometrist (either Part I or Part II optometrist) on the expenses of the applicant or refer the applicant to the Hong Kong Eye Hospital for examination.