

Medical Examination of Divers Approval of Doctors – India

The Oil & Natural Gas Corporation of India (ONGC) has announced its scheme for the approval of doctors to conduct medical examination of divers in India.

The arrangements are set out in the following communication received from Mr Alok Nandan, CE(P) of ONGC.

After withdrawal of HSE, UK, from approval of doctors for medical examination of divers outside UK, ONGC has approved the following criteria for approval of doctors for medical examination of divers. This is for your information.

The scope of the doctor in conducting the medical examination of divers shall be as follows.

- (i) To assess whether the diver is fit or not to undertake commercial offshore diving activities. An annual fitness to medical dive is to be conducted as per IMCA information note D 20/01.
- (ii) To assess a divers fitness to return to diving after serious illness including decompression illness or accident.
- (iii) To give advice to any commercial diver or his supervisor who may have concerns about fitness to dive because of some individual problem.

The approved criteria are elaborated below.

1.0 Criteria for earlier/existing HSE approved doctors.

- 1.1 The doctors who at present are HSE approved shall continue to remain in the list of ONGC approved doctors.
- 1.2 Such doctors should attend refresher course complying with the training objectives of Diving & Medicine document prepared by the joint Medical sub-committee of the European Committee for Hyperbaric Medicine(ECHM) & The European Diving Technology Committee (EDTC) or equivalent at intervals of every 5 years. The certificate thus obtained should be submitted to ONGC for revalidation of approval.

2.0 Criteria for doctors seeking fresh approval

- 2.1 The doctor (MBBS) must be a fully qualified medical practitioner. The qualification certificate issued by respective university is to be submitted.
- 2.2 The doctor should have completed an initial course in diving medicine of minimum duration of 25 lecture hours and 3 hrs practical from a recognized organization or should possess Post Graduate qualification in Diving and Underwater medicine from a recognized institute.
- 2.3 Such doctors should attend refresher course complying with the training objectives of Diving & Medicine document prepared by the joint Medical sub-committee of the European Committee for Hyperbaric Medicine(ECHM) & The European Diving Technology Committee (EDTC) or equivalent at intervals of every 5 years. The certificate thus obtained should be submitted to ONGC.
- 2.4 All the relevant certificates should be submitted at the time of initial approval of the doctors.