

## Maritime Safety Queensland

# BoatSafe Medical Condition Fact Sheet

## Purpose

This BoatSafe Medical Condition Fact Sheet describes the process for marine licence candidates who have declared a medical condition that may prevent them from discharging their general safety obligations when operating a ship in Queensland waters. This fact sheet will assist both marine licence candidates and BoatSafe Training Providers (BTP).

## General information

The BoatSafe Training Organisation (BTO) **must** ensure all marine licence candidates undertaking a BoatSafe course or applying for Recognised Prior Learning complete a Recreational Marine Driver Licence and Personal Watercraft Licence - medical fitness disclosure statement. The disclosure statement can be downloaded from the department's website ([www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au)), before enrolment.

Candidates **must** declare any medical condition that may impact their ability to safely operate a vessel. A candidate who discloses a medical condition may, on agreement with the BTP, continue the BoatSafe training and assessment.

The BTP **must** provide a candidate who discloses a medical condition with information on the medical fitness review process. The BTO and BTP are not permitted to request specific details of the candidate's medical condition.

Once a candidate who has declared a medical condition has successfully completed the training and assessment, the BTO must email the candidate's contact information and electronic version (scanned or pdf) of the candidate's Statement of Competency (SOC) to the department within two working days. The BTP **must** retain the SOC in the book and mark the copy accordingly as a medical SOC for future audits.

Wherever possible, the department will make medical fitness determinations in consultation with qualified health professionals.

## Medical conditions

The following provides some examples of medical conditions which may affect the safe operation of a vessel:

- vision impairment
- hearing impairment
- cardiovascular condition
- psychiatric conditions
- musculoskeletal conditions that impede mobility or agility
- neurological disorders
- respiratory disorders
- dementia or Alzheimer's disease
- insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
- moderate or severe sleep disorders.

## Process

The following table details the steps that are to be undertaken. The process provides for the individual review of each candidate's medical condition and considers the candidate's current and future condition.

Step	Process
1	Licence candidate completes the <a href="#">Recreational marine driver licence and personal watercraft licence - medical fitness disclosure statement</a> prior to participation in BoatSafe training or the BTO may provide the form at enrolment. It is the BTO's responsibility to ensure this statement is completed.

- 2 When the candidate indicates on the Medical Fitness Disclosure Statement that they have a medical condition, the BTP will advise the candidate that:
- Their medical fitness will be reviewed by the department.
  - They are not required to disclose the specific nature of their medical condition to the BTO or BTP.
  - Their contact information will be given to the department.
  - The department will contact them to explain the medical fitness review process.
  - They may participate in the BoatSafe training and Assessment, if agreed to by the BTP, however on successful completion, the SOC will be given to the department.
- 3 If the candidate successfully completes the BoatSafe training and assessment, the BTO/BTP emails the candidate's contact information and an electronic version (scanned or pdf) of the candidate's SOC to the department within two working days at: [maritime.operations@msq.qld.gov.au](mailto:maritime.operations@msq.qld.gov.au)
- The BTP must retain the triplicates in their SOC book. A copy of the SOC is **not** provided to the candidate.
- 4 The department will contact the candidate to explain the medical review process.
- 5 The department may give the candidate an RMDL/PWCL Medical Fitness Questionnaire for the candidate's nominated health professional to complete and sign or other documentation as appropriate to their condition.
- 6 The department will review the completed RMDL/PWCL Medical Fitness Questionnaire or other relevant documentation. The outcome may be a recommendation to:
- grant an RMDL/PWCL without conditions
  - grant an RMDL/PWCL subject to conditions
  - refuse to grant an RMDL/PWCL.
- 7 If the recommendation is to grant the licence without conditions, the department will:
- Email the SOC, a link to the RMDL/PWCL Licence Application form and a General Safety Obligation - no need for conditioning letter to the candidate. The candidate may attend any Customer Service Centre (CSC) to apply for the RMDL or PWCL.
- If the recommendation is to grant the licence with conditions, the department will:
- Email the SOC and a letter detailing the licence conditions to the candidate's nominated departmental CSC. The candidate must attend the nominated CSC to apply for the RMDL or PWCL.
  - Place a text restriction on the candidate's driver licence record.
- If the recommendation is to refuse the licence application, the department will:
- Advise the candidate or guardian in writing and provide information regarding their right to appeal.
  - Place a text restriction on the candidate's driver licence record.
  - Retain the RMDL/PWCL and SOC.

## Further Information

For further information contact the BoatSafe Team – [boatsafe@msq.qld.gov.au](mailto:boatsafe@msq.qld.gov.au)