

Geraets, Matthew L MED2

From: CMD-SMB-COMDT-CG1
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 2:57 PM
To: CMD-SMB-CG-HSWL-SC; CMD-SMB-COMDT-CG1
Subject: WAIVER CRITERIA FOR ASTIGMATISM
Signed By: matthew.l.geraets@uscg.mil

UNCLAS //N06010//

SUBJ: WAIVER CRITERIA FOR ASTIGMATISM

A. Medical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction in the Military

Services, DoDI 6130.03 Change 1

B. Coast Guard Medical Manual, COMDTINST M6000.1 (series)

1. This message revises the Coast Guard waiver criteria for astigmatism.

2. Astigmatism results from a cylindrical refractive error causing blurry vision

due to the inability of the eye optics to focus a point object into a sharp focused image on the retina. Astigmatism with a high cylindrical refractive error is a risk factor for keratoconus.

3. Potential military accessions with astigmatism exceeding 3.00 diopters do not

meet medical standards for accession into any military branch per REF (A).

However, the Department of Defense (DoD) considers waivers on a case by case basis for astigmatism between 3.00 and 5.00 diopters with normal corneal topography and keratometry studies.

4. To align with DoD, the Coast Guard Recruiting Command (CGRC)/Coast Guard Academy (CGA)/Coast Guard Personnel Command (CG-PSC) should consider a waiver for

potential accessions with stable astigmatism between 3.00 and 5.00 diopters if

the following conditions are met:

a. The potential accession has had a corneal examination performed by an

ophthalmologist or optometrist within twelve months prior to the waiver request,

b. The corneal topography and keratometry demonstrate no evidence of ocular pathology,

c. There is no history of prior ocular pathology, keratoplasty or crosslinking and,

d. The potential accession will not apply for an aviation or diving position.

e. The potential accession meets distant and near visual acuity standards.

5. This waiver consideration should also apply to potential accessions who otherwise

meet accession post corneal refractive surgery criteria as outlined in chapter 3-D.8.c of REF (B).

6. For questions regarding this message, contact CWO Matthew Geraets, Publications and Directives Program Manager, CG-1121, at Matthew.L.Geraets@uscg.mil or (202) 475-5173.

8. CAPT Gerald N. Taylor, Chief (Acting) Office of Health Services, sends.

9. Internet release authorized.