



CIRCULAR MCO – 011-2021

DATE: SEPTEMBER 24th, 2021
FROM: MCO HEAD OFFICE – TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT
TO: SURVEYORS/ MANagements/ OWNERS/ OPERATORS
SUBJECT: MEDICINE CHEST AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Dear All:

By this means we would like to draw your attention to circular **MMC-339** regarding the mandatory carriage of a medical chest and medical equipment onboard complying with the WHO International Medical Guide for Ships.

Panamanian Flag ships must provide access to all necessary medicine, medical equipment and facilities for diagnosis and treatment of illness as well as information regarding occupational health protection. A medical chest and medical equipment list assume that treatment is dispensed by officers under the responsibility of the captain, however officers are not considered as medically qualified. If there is a doctor on board vessels may carry an expanded array of medicines, equipment and supplies. Also, the captain should keep a register of controlled drugs kept onboard.

The list should include details for expiry dates, storage conditions and remaining quantities, also records of treatment must be kept and entered in the ship's log.

Whenever there is any serious illness, injury or any doubt regarding a treatment a doctor must be consulted. Vessels with 100 or more persons for voyages of more than three days will have to carry a qualified medical doctor onboard.

Medicines and equipment are to be inspected in a period of not more than twelve (12) months by the designated officer and Flag State Annual Safety Inspections will also be used to verify their condition.

Besides the medical chest and medical equipment list all vessels shall carry the latest edition available of the WHO International Medical Guide for Ships as well as the Medical First Aid Guide and special equipment as per the IMDG Code if those vessels are carrying dangerous cargo.

The International Medical Guide for Ships recommendations for oxygen appliances according to the quantity of crewmembers on board. In this matter oxygen cylinders onboard shall be annually inspected, checked as required by the manufacturers, hydrostatically tested every five (5) years and all test certificates to be maintained onboard. Keep in mind that there will be no extension of the validity of oxygen cylinders inspection as an onboard safety and health protection measure.

Note: **Circular MMC-339** attached for reference.

All related documents can be found on our website: <https://macosnar.com/>.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,



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