



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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MERCHANT MARINE NOTICE

The purpose of this Circular is to inform users that the Flag and Port State Control (PSC) surveyors on Panamanian jurisdictional waters shall verify the on-board existence, of medicine chests, medical equipment and guides, whose specifications shall prescribe and be submitted to periodical inspections, taking into account the number of persons on board, the type and nature of the vessel, destination and duration of voyage.

The Flag State and Port State Control surveyors shall ensure the control of labels, expiration dates, conditions for the conservation of medicines and the corresponding prospects, as well as the proper functioning of the equipment.

Personnel in charge of on board medical assistance, must have satisfactorily completed a medical first aid or medical care training in accordance to the requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW, 1978); Rule VI/4; Section A-VI/4, Paragraphs 1-6.

The training should be based on the content of the recent editions of the International Medical Guide for Ships, the Medical First Aid Guide for Use in Accidents Involving Dangerous Goods, the Document that will serve as guidance for the training of Seafarers and the medical section for the International Code of Signals.

The Republic of Panama counts with companies in charge to equip medicine chests on ships according to the voyage and type of vessel, as well as issuing the corresponding certifications in order to comply with the international conventions ratified by the Republic of Panama.

Furthermore, Flag State inspectors and Port State Control (PSC) inspectors are instructed to take special attention to this subject from January 1, 2013.

January, 2013 – Modification of first paragraph and addition of last paragraph.

October, 2012

Inquiries concerning the subject of this instrument or any other, should be directed to:

Directorate General of Merchant Marine

SEGUMAR-Panama

Panama Maritime Authority

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