

Medical Care onboard ship and ashore – MLC Regulation 4.1

1. Medical care on board ship and ashore

1.1 Shipowners shall ensure that seafarers working on board their ships have prompt access to the necessary medicine, medical equipment and facilities for diagnosis and treatment, and to medical and occupational health protection information and expertise, which is generally comparable to that provided to workers ashore.

1.2 Shipowners shall use the standard medical report form or forms provided for in the Annex to the current edition of the WHO 'International Medical Guide for ships', for use by the master and relevant medical personnel onshore and on-board. The form, when completed, and its contents shall be kept confidential and shall only be used to facilitate the treatment of seafarers. Other medical report forms may be accepted provided the necessary information is included.

2. Every ship shall maintain a medical log for recording all medical treatment on-board and onshore.

2.1 All ships shall carry a medicine chest and medical equipment that complies with the requirements in the current edition of the WHO 'International Medical Guide for Ships', and bearing in mind the number of persons on board and the nature and duration of the voyage.

2.2 The medicines & medical equipment shall be inspected at intervals, not exceeding 12 months, by the designated medical officer on board or a pharmacist, who shall ensure that the labelling, expiry dates and conditions of storage of all medicines and directions for their use are checked and all equipment functioning as required. List of medicine and equipment with expiry dates shall be maintained .

2.3. All ships carrying 100 or more persons and ordinarily engaged on international voyages of more than 3 days duration shall carry a qualified medical doctor.

2.4 On ships which do not carry a medical doctor, there shall be at least one seafarer on board who is in charge of medical care and administering medicine as part of their regular duties or at least one seafarer on board competent to provide medical first aid; such persons shall have completed the relevant training required by the STCW 1978, as amended.

2.5. All ships shall carry on board the current edition of the WHO publication 'International Medical Guide for Ships' and for those ships carrying

dangerous cargoes, in addition shall carry the 'Medical First Aid Guide' for use in accidents involving dangerous cargoes.

2.6. Ships carrying dangerous goods not listed in the IMDG Code, shall carry 'Material Safety Data Sheets' available for these cargoes.

2.7 All ships shall carry a complete and up-to-date list of radio stations through which medical advice can be obtained; and, If equipped with a system of satellite communication, carry an up-to-date and complete list of coast earth stations through which medical advice can be obtained.

Such publications shall include, but not be limited to: the current editions of the ITU publication 'List VI-List of radio determination and special service stations'; the 'Admiralty List of Radio Signals Vol.1; and the 'International Code of Signals'.

2.8 . The seafarer's responsible for medical care or first aid care shall be instructed in the use of the current editions of the International Medical Guide, the International Code of Signals and the radio/satellite communication system.

Note : A sample format of sea farers medical certificate is attached page 3 to 7