

Merchant Marine Circular No. 114

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian Flag Vessels, Class Societies and Authorized Organizations

Subject: Policy Matters

FIRST AID KIT

This Administration follows the recommendations of the World Health Organization in the International Medical Guide for Ships on medical subjects. Each First Aid Kit, onboard the ship should contain at least iodine solution, a large standard dressing, 2 medium standard dressing, 4 small standard dressing, 8 triangular bandages, some cotton wool, safety pins, sticking plaster, scissors and a pencil with paper.

The Administration strongly recommends, that there should be 1 kit available in Deck Officer and Engine room.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION MSC 64(67)

Resolution MSC.64(67) of the International Maritime Organization sets out new performance standards and amendments of existing standards and they are applicable to equipment installed on or after 1 February 2000 on Panamanian registered vessels. This is in regards to automatic pilots/heading control system, radar equipment, integrated bridge system (IBS), shipborne DGPS and DGLONASS maritime radio beacon receiver equipment, electronic chart display and information system (ECDIS).

EMERGENCY TOWING ARRANGEMENT LIGHTING

This Administration recommends that emergency lighting should be on the access way of the forward emergency towing arrangement since this arrangement must be accessed by the crew during emergency situations, which could happen at any time of the day. This is just a strong recommendation, since the Administration cannot make it mandatory given that emergency lighting was not contemplated in IMO Resolutions MSC 35(63) and MSC 62(67).

LAUNCHING TEST FOR LIFEBOAT AND RESCUE BOAT

The launching test at 5 knots in calm water required in SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 17.3 and 33.2 is a requirement of this Administration for all vessels to which the chapter applies, even if they are sister ships. In the case of ships, whose keels were laid or which were at similar stage of construction on after 1 July 1998 and have not carried out this test, they have until the next dry-docking period but not later than 1 July 2004 to performed the required test.

GARBAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The International Maritime Organization, by MARPOL 73/78, Annex V, Regulation 9(2) and Resolution MEPC 65(37), adopted Guidelines for The Garbage Management Plan and the Garbage Book that provide a systematic approach to the enforcement and control of garbage in the marine environment. The Panama Maritime Authority requires that every ship of 400 gross tonnage and above, and every ship certified to carry 15 persons or more shall carry a Garbage Management Plan and shall be provided with a Garbage Record Book.

Both, the Garbage Management Plan and the Garbage Book do not need to be approved by this Administration nor on our behalf. The plan shall be drawn up to a standard at least equivalent to MARPOL Annex V, Regulation 9(2) and with the guidelines developed by the IMO. The Garbage Record Book shall be in the form specified in the Appendix of MARPOL Annex V.

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