



THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
Bureau of Maritime Affairs

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Office of
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Marine Operations Note 08/2009

Subject: Guidance for the International Medical Guide for Ships 3rd edition

- Ref: (a) WHO International Medical Guide for Ships 3rd edition
(b) Joint Statement of WHO Collaborating Centres for the Health of Seafarers and the International Maritime Health Association
(c) Liberian Marine Notice TEC-005

Dear Shipowners/Operators and Masters,

Attached is interim guidance published by experts from the International Medical Health Association and the WHO Collaborating Centres for the Health of Seafarers regarding the best use of the medical chest for ocean-going merchant vessels without a doctor onboard contained in the "International Medical Guide for Ships 3rd edition.

Ships carrying Dangerous Goods Code shall also follow the current guidance provided in the MFAG supplement to the IMDG Code.

The Liberian Administration requires that ships comply with either the guidance found in the "International Medical Guide for Ships" or a similar national standard such as MSN 1768 (M&F) from the UK's Maritime And Coast Guard Agency as a basis for establishing minimum medical supplies and equipment required to be carried. Provided, these inventories are effectively equal to WHO standards and the attached interim guidance, they shall be considered in compliance with Administration requirements.

As noted in the attached, the aim of the Interim Advice is:

- to provide an aid for decision making for quantities required for seagoing and coastal vessels
- to add items named in the textbook of the IMGS 3rd edition but missing in the list of medicines or equipment
- to add page numbers from the medical textbook to the list of medicines for easier use.

We understand that some vessels may still have on board medical equipment meeting the requirements of the International Medical Guide for Ships 2nd edition. This medical equipment may not match the medical guide and medical equipment in the IMGS 3rd edition. Owners and operators should ensure their vessels medical chest is updated in accordance with the IMGS 3rd

edition. Until the medical chest is updated vessels should have on board copies of both the IMGS 2nd edition and IMGS 3rd editions.

The medical equipment shall be maintained and used in accordance with the instruction in the edition appropriate to the equipment carried on board.

If you have any questions, please email safety@liscr.com.
