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**Shipping Information Notice – No. 44**

To: Local Representatives Ship Owners, Operators, Masters, Officers and Crew

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**MUMBAI PORT HEALTH YELLOW FEVER ENDEMIC GUIDANCE**

This SIN offers general guidance for minimising the risk to seafarers, from the yellow fever endemic.

Instructions from company medical advisors, port medical officers or public health authorities should always take primacy over the advice of this SIN.

Background:

Yellow fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic disease transmitted by infected mosquitoes. The "yellow" in the name refers to the jaundice (yellow pigmentation of the skin) that affects some patients. The disease is caused by the yellow fever virus and is spread by the bite of the female mosquito. Once contracted, the virus incubates in the body for 3 to 6 days, followed by infection that can occur in one or two phases. The first, "acute", phase usually causes fever, muscle pain with prominent backache, headache, shivers, loss of appetite, and nausea or vomiting. Most patients improve and their symptoms disappear after 3 to 4 days however, 15% of patients enter a second, more toxic phase within 24 hours of the initial remission. High fever returns and several body systems are affected. The patient rapidly develops jaundice and complains of abdominal pain with vomiting. Bleeding can occur from the mouth, nose, eyes or stomach. Once this happens, blood appears in the vomit and faeces. Kidney function deteriorates. Half of the patients who enter the toxic phase die within 10 to 14 days, the rest recover without significant organ damage.

Mumbai Yellow Fever Requirements:

Mumbai Port Health Authority has announced that ships that have called at ports in countries where Yellow Fever is endemic within 30 days from the date of departure will be labelled "suspect vessels" and will be subject to Indian port health rules.

Any person arriving from these countries within six days of the date of departure will be required to produce a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate. Those unable to produce such a certificate will be quarantined until the end of the six days from the time of departure.

The countries considered Yellow Fever endemic in Africa are:

Angola, Benin, Burkino Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Ivory Coast, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, South Sudan, Togo and Uganda.

The countries considered Yellow Fever endemic in South America are:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Gyana, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela.

All passengers/crew who are travelling to Yellow fever endemic countries are advised to take YF vaccination 10 days before their scheduled arrival in the Yellow Fever endemic Country. They will be required to produce Yellow Fever certificate of vaccination on their arrival in India to avoid enforcement of quarantine procedures/regulations.

Richard Montado  
Maritime Administrator

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