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Shipping Guidance Notice – 157
Medical Stores – Areas of restricted importation of pharmaceuticals
(To be read in conjunction with SGN 102)

To: Owners, Operators, Master's, Certifying Authorities and Recognised Organisations

1. References

- Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Medical Stores) Regulations 2000 (as amended)
- Shipping Guidance Notice 102 – Ship's Medical Stores

2. Introduction

2.1. The Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Medical Stores) Regulations 2000 (as amended) set out the ship medical stores requirements, with Shipping Guidance Notice 102 – Ship's Medical Stores providing additional guidance on carriage requirements.

2.2. The Gibraltar Maritime Administration (GMA) has recently been made aware of difficulties being faced by Gibraltar registered ships operating in certain global regions in relation to the provision and/or replenishment of medical stores in particular pharmaceuticals, which may be subject to use/control restrictions imposed by individual countries.

2.3. To date, the difficulties are for the most part impacting the service provided by companies contracted by ship operators for maintaining ship medical stores inventories, and where restrictions/control of certain pharmaceuticals by individual countries are having an impact on the local provision and/or replenishment of certain pharmaceuticals to ships.

2.4. The difficulties at the time of publication of this Shipping Guidance Notice (SGN), are not reported as impacting ship's medical inventories already on board prior to the ship entering such regions.

3. Guidance

3.1. Medical Stores Inventories

3.1.1. In respect of ship operations (in particular those which exceed normal transits) within regions where medical stores restriction may exist, managers/operators should consider the development and implementation of suitable measures to ensure the shelf-life (expiry) of individual components of the ship's medical inventory are sufficient for the anticipated operational period.

3.1.2. In respect of individual medical stores which may be subject to frequent use, and which may be subject to restrictions, consideration should be given to increasing inventories to take into account the anticipated operational period.

3.2. Exceptional circumstances

3.2.1. Further to section 3.1 above, unanticipated exceptional circumstances may arise where the ship is to remain within a region imposing restrictions, for a period exceeding that of the anticipated operational period, and which may have an impact on the validity of the ship's medical stores. In respect of such exceptional circumstances, the GMA may be approached with a view to consideration being given by the GMA to temporary mitigating measures being adopted.

3.2.2. In respect of 3.2.1 above, managers/operators should contact the GMA via maritime.survey@gibraltar.gov.gi providing the following (but limited to) information:

- Name of ship & IMO number;
- Operational area / country
- Type of operation
- Medical stores affected
- Anticipated date for rectification (replenishment);
- Risk assessment in respect of affected medical stores;
- Proposed temporary mitigating measures.

Steve Gomez
Chief Surveyor

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