



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref. SM 6/5/2/1

Date: 21 April 2020

Marine Notice No. 24 of 2020

Medical Evacuations from Vessels (MEDEVAC)

TO MASTERS, SHIP OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF SOUTH AFRICAN SHIPS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS, MARINE EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS AND THEIR AGENTS, SHIP BUILDERS/REPAIRERS, INDEPENDENT SURVEYORS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SAMSA SURVEYORS, MARITIME INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS CREW/STORES TRANSFER VESSELS, YACHTS AND FISHING VESSELS.

Marine Notice No 25 of 2014 is hereby cancelled.

Summary

This Marine Notice serves to inform industry of the procedure to be followed when considering the evacuation of crew members off vessels due to medical reasons irrespective of severity or nature of medical condition. To ensure that we remain consistent and abide by the various Government health directives and advisories and the World Health Organisation warnings regarding Communicable Disease. It is prudent that we implement the following measures in order to safeguard South Africa and its citizens

Background

With the increase in World Health Organisation warnings' relating to infectious diseases and viruses like EBOLA and COVID-19 it has become necessary to tighten-up on the access granted to persons who display signs of possible infection not just via vessel to shore interaction but also when the sick or injured crew member(s) is brought ashore.

1. This marine notice serves to inform all on the correct reporting channels and make everyone aware of who has the authority to allow the medical emergency evacuation (Medevac) of crew members from vessels to take place.
 - 1.1. As soon as it becomes known that there is/are persons on board vessels with illness/sickness/injury or death and/or requiring medical evacuation for whatever reason into South Africa the following procedure is to be strictly adhered to
 - 1.2. The Master must obtain radio medical advice from Metro Western Cape Emergency Duty Doctor and complete the appropriate TMAS (Telemedical Advice at Sea) documents, if required. TMAS document attached as annex
 - 1.3. The doctor evaluating the case will consider case definitions for infectious diseases/virus when providing advice

- 1.4. The doctor will advise the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) of his/her advice and any Medevac recommendations
- 1.5. The Master of the Vessel/ vessel agent must contact and inform the nearest Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA Port Control office) of the Medevac recommendation. The details to be included in this report are;
 - 1.5.1.1. Standard text TMAS format information when available
 - 1.5.1.2. Last 10 Ports of Call where personnel embarked or disembarked
 - 1.5.1.3. Three separate body temperature recordings of the patient to be evacuated, taken at intervals of at least 4 hours, where applicable.
 - 1.5.1.4. Whether the vessel took passengers, crew or goods from any of the countries identified as posing a risk or any other area affected by communicable disease and virus within the previous 21 days
 - 1.5.1.5. Any crew changes that may have occurred from any of these countries.
- 1.6. Masters are to ensure that local agents if not already appointed, are appointed and given all necessary details pertaining to the request including information relevant to infectious diseases above.
- 1.7. Masters are also required to submit an ISPS application in terms of the ISPS Code as a declaration of interaction with services from shore and engagement with vessels, aircraft or any other means for purposes of the Medevac.
- 1.8. Masters of vessels requiring assistance/Medevac must report all illness/sickness and deaths of crew / passengers on board within the last 21 days, to the Port Health Authority either directly or through a shipping agent.
- 1.9. Agents appointed to co-ordinate Medevacs must contact the Port Health Authority to provide all necessary information relevant to infectious diseases and to establish whether permission is granted to land patients by Medevac.
- 1.10. A Medevac may only occur with the permission of the Port Health Authority, or the MRCC after consultations with Port Health has taken place.
- 1.11. Such permission will include instructions from the Port Health Authority and/or MRCC on the methodology/means to be applied during the Medevac - which could include the presence of a Port Health Official at any Medevac.
- 1.12. Vessel agents are to ensure that the master provides the Transnet National Ports Authority with all the required clearance applications. Agents may obtain such directly from Transnet National Ports Authority Office within their regions.
- 1.13. Only persons and organisations trained in infectious disease control measures with the required capacity and equipment are permitted to conduct a Medevac when Communicable Disease Case definitions are met.
- 1.14. All the prescribed measures stipulated by Port Authorities (Health, Immigration, Customs) are to be met by the agents on behalf of the vessels and the Port Authorities are to ensure the necessary actions are taken should the vessel require quarantine.

It must be clearly noted that NO medevacs may take place from vessels whether locally or foreign registered without the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) being firstly advised and secondly that authorisation is received from the MRCC.

2. This notice shall remain in force until further notice.

21 April 2020

SM 6/5/2/1

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ANNEX

TMAS FORM

1. Introduction and Background

The International Maritime Organization Maritime Safety Committee issued Circular 960 in June 2000 detailing guidelines to Governments on Telemedical Assistance at Sea as an integral part of maritime rescue consistent with the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue.

The Maritime Rescue Co-ordinating Centre, Cape Town Radio and the Medical Emergency Transport and Rescue Organization (METRO) Emergency Medical Services have cooperated in the provision of Telemedical Assistance at Sea (TMAS) in terms of Circular 960.

Requests for TMAS are received at Cape Town Radio and patched through to the duty Medical Officer of METRO EMS who assess each case, advises on medical care and recommends decisions on medical evacuation.

In order to facilitate accurate precise communication of patient medical information and ensure the physicians have good data on which to base decisions an agreed format of the TMAS report has been adopted. The format is created in a style familiar to maritime operations and contains adequate information to ensure competent decision making by consulting physicians.

FORMAT: TELEMEDICAL ASSISTANCE AT SEA (TMAS) REPORT

1. Code prefix in **RED** are compulsory/minimum requirement
2. Info in **BLUE** new requirement as of September 2014
3. See inputs by Doctor (EMS Western Cape) in **GREEN**
4. Section 1 to be completed by Captain of vessel
5. Section 2 to be completed by EMS Doctor

SECTION 1

Code Prefix	Content	Explanation
A	Ship name, call sign, flag, Port of registry	Ship name, call sign, flag, port of registry of the ship e.g. /SHIPNAME/ABCD/GREEK/MONROVIA
B	Time	Time of report in UTC. 6 digit date time group giving day of the month and hours and minutes in UTC followed by the month e.g. /291000 JUL//
C	Position	The position of the ship at the time of reporting. 4 digit group giving latitude in degrees and minutes suffixed with "N" (north) or "S" (south) and 5 digit group giving longitude in degrees and minutes suffixed with "E" (east) or "W" (west) e.g. /1212S 00527E//
E	Ship type	Type of ship written in full e.g. /CONTAINER VESSEL//
F	Destination	Destination of ship e.g. /CAPETOWN//
F1	Ports called on in past 30 days (Provide Port name and country)	LAGOS / NIGERIA 25Apr14// LAS PALMAS/CANARY ISLANDS20Apr14//LISBON/PORTUGAL 17Apr14//SOUTHAMPTON/UK 10Apr14
F2	Local Shipping Agent	Company and Name: Bloggs Shipping/ Peter Pan
G	ETA Destination	Estimate Time of Arrival e.g. /010700 MAY//
H1	Contact person on board	Contact person on board ship e.g. /MASTER//
H2	Patient surname	Patient surname e.g. /JOE SOAP//
H3	Date of Birth	Date of Birth of patient (DDMMYYYY) e.g. /21041961//
H4	Age	Age of patient e.g. /48//
H5	Gender	MALE OR FEMALE e.g. /MALE//
H6	Nationality and Passport number	Nationality of patient e.g. /GREEK// B215784215
H7	Occupation on board	Occupation on board of the patient e.g. /2ndOFFICER//
H8	Photo of ill or injured patient	Photo of ill or injured patient to be faxed/mailed to the address nominated by the doctor.
I1 (If cause)	Medical circumstances illness	Medical circumstances of patient on board the ship that has an illness e.g. /ILLNESS//
I2 (If cause)	Medical circumstances accident	Medical circumstances of patient on board the ship that has had an accident e.g. /ACCIDENT//
I3 (If cause)	Medical circumstances Poisoning	Medical circumstances of patient on board the ship that has been poisoned e.g. /POISONING//
J	Previous medical history	Previous medical history of the patient e.g. /SUPPLY FULL MEDICAL HISTORY// If available//
P	Ongoing treatment	To be advised by Medical Consulting Physician
Q1	Care on board before Tele consultation	Type of care given to patient by ships personnel, before the consultation with Doctor
Q2	Medical equipment and medication stores on board	Provide a list of the medical equipment and medication stores on board the vessel in order to assist with MEDICO
R1	Medical Observation – Blood Pressure	Systolic
R2	Medical Observation – Blood Pressure	Diastolic
R3	Medical Observation – Breaths per minute	Number of breaths per minute e.g. / 11 per minute//
R4	Medical Observation – Temperature	Temperature of patient e.g. / 37 Celsius//
R5	Medical Observation – Pulse	Pulse of patient e.g. / 72 per minute//
R6	Medical Observation – Weight in Kilograms	Weight of patient e.g. / 96 kilograms
R7	Medical Observation – Height in meters	Height of patient e.g. / 1.7 meters

SECTION 2

Code Prefix	Content	Explanation
S	Diagnosis (ES) by doctor	To be advised by Medical Consulting Physician
T	Medical Instructions	To be advised by Medical Consulting Physician
U1	Medical Assistance Required. Ship to divert to port	Ship to divert to port YES or NO E.g./Yes//
U2	Medical Assistance Required. Ambulance	Is a ambulance required when/if ship docks YES or NO e.g./Yes//
U3	Medical Assistance Required. Doctor, Nurse or Paramedic	Is a Doctor, Nurse or Paramedic required when/if ship docks YES or NO e.g./Doctor//
U4	Medical Assistance Required. Medical Evacuation	Does the patient need to be Evacuated YES or NO e.g./Yes//
U5	Medical Assistance Required. Medevac Time Frame	Does the Medevac need to take place immediately or daylight hours e.g./Immediately
U6	Medical Assistance Required. Medevac Method	Does the ship need to dock or helicopter Winch/Stretcher or Helicopter Winch/Strop e.g. Dock//
U7	Medical Assistance Required. Air Drop of supplies	Does the ship require medical supplies to be air dropped? Yes or No e.g. No//
U8	Medical Assistance Required. Quarantine Situation	Does the patient need to be in quarantined? Yes or No e.g. No//

SAMPLE:- TELEMEDICAL ASSISTANCE AT SEA (TMAS) MESSAGE

Section1

A/SHIPNAME/ABCD/GREEK/MONROVIA

B/021000 APR//

C/1212S 00527W//

E/CONTAINER VESSEL//

F/CAPETOWN//

F1 LAGOS / NIGERIA 25Apr14// LAS PALMAS/CANARY ISLANDS20Apr14//LISBON/PORTUGAL 17Apr14//SOUTHAMPTON/UK 10Apr14

F2 Bloggs Shipping/Peter Pan

G/010700 MAY//

H1/MASTER

H2/JOE SOAP//

H3/21041961//

H4/48//

H5/MALE//

H6/GREEK// **B215784215**

H7/2ND OFFICER//

H8/FAX OF EMAIL PHOTO OF PATIENT

I1/ILLNESS// (If cause)

I2/ACCIDENT// (If cause)

I3/POISONING// (If cause)

J/SUPPLY FULL MEDICAL HISTORY//

P/ TO BE ADVISED BY MEDICAL CONSULTING PHYSICIAN

Q1/TYPE OF CARE GIVEN PATIENT BY SHIPS PERSONNEL BEFORE THE CONSULTATION WITH DOCTOR

Q2/LIST OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND MEDICATION STORES ON BOARD THE VESSEL

R1/130

R2/80

R3/11 PER MINUTE//

R4/37 CELCIUS//

R5/72 PER MINUTE//

R6/96 KILOGRAMS

R7/1.7 METERS

Section 2

S/ TO BE ADVISED BY MEDICAL CONSULTING PHYSICIAN

T/ TO BE ADVISED BY MEDICAL CONSULTING PHYSICIAN

U1/YES//

U2/YES//

U3/DOCTOR//

U4/YES//
U5/IMMEDIATELY
U6/DOCK//
U7/NO//
U8/NO//

