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Technical Department

FROM: NOVAVERITAS NV TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT

TO: to all NV Surveyors & Auditors and technical personnel

DATE: March 20th, 2013

SUBJECT: Medical Oxygen Carriage Requirements - International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code)

A) INTRODUCTION

International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG) requirements regarding the carriage of medical oxygen cylinders for all vessels carrying dangerous good as defined in regulation 1 of Chapter VII of SOLAS 74, as amended, and to all ships, irrespective of type and size, carrying substances, material or articles identified in the IMDG Code as marine pollutants. References: (a) SOLAS 74 Chapter VII, as amended (b) MARPOL, Annex III, as amended (c) IMDG Code, as amended.

B) REQUIREMENTS

The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS 74) Chapter VII prescribes the general regulations for the carriage of dangerous goods in packaged form or in solid form in bulk. Reference (b) applies to all ships carrying harmful substances identified as marine pollutants in packaged form by the IMDG Code. All dangerous goods and marine pollutants carried on Liberian flagged ships shall be carried and shipped in accordance with the IMDG Code, as amended.

IMO as published a separate Supplement to the IMDG Code containing Emergency Response Procedures, Medical First Aid Guide (MFAG), Reporting Procedures, Guidelines for Packing Cargo Transport Units, Recommendations for the Safe Use of Pesticides, and the INF Code.

C) MEDICAL OXIGEN

The cargo details found in Volume One of the IMDG Code lists the medical hazards for each specific cargo listed in the Code. For certain cargoes the IMDG Code requires the carriage of oxygen resuscitation equipment as specified in the MFAG. In general, nearly all of the cargoes listed in the IMDG Code required medical oxygen.

The MFAG (Medical First Aid Guide) requires the carriage of a minimum of 44 liters/ 200 bar of oxygen as follows:

1. one (1) 40 liter/200 bar medical oxygen cylinder located in the ship's hospital, assembled for direct use, equipped with one (1) flowmeter unit (two ports) for supplying oxygen for two (2) persons simultaneously, and
2. one (1) complete portable set, ready for use, with a 2 liter/200 bar medical oxygen cylinder and a spare cylinder (also 2 liter/200 bar).
3. Two 20 liter/200 bar medical oxygen cylinders may be used to comply with the 40 liter/200 bar requirement, if the system is arranged so as to be able to supply oxygen to two persons simultaneously.

Instructions regarding the storage of the medical oxygen can be obtained from the proper Flag State regulation or location should be acceptable as stated by the vessel's classification society.

The Medical oxygen cylinders and resuscitation equipment should be inspected and serviced annually, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Servicing should be carried out by trained competent personnel and acceptable to the vessel's classification society.

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