



Information on implementation period for MSN 1905 (M+F) Ships' Medical Stores (which replaces MSN 1768 (M+F))

Notice to all Shipowners, Agents, Master, Skippers of Fishing Vessels, Seafarers and Approved training providers.

This notice should be read with MSN 1905

(M+F) Ships' Medical Stores Application of the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Medical Stores) Regulations 1995 (SI 1995/1802) and the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Medical Stores) (Amendment) Regulations 1996 (SI 1996/2821). This MIN expires March 2022

Summary

This Information Note explains the implementation phase in period for MSN1905 (M+F) Ships' Medical Stores which has been published in March 2021.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has updated its Merchant Shipping Notice MSN1768 (M+F) Ships' Medical Stores in March 2021. The new Merchant Shipping Notice MSN1905 (M+F) Ships' Medical Stores sets out the minimum requirements for medical stores for UK ships.
- 1.2 To allow for ship operators to comply with the new requirements set out in MSN1905 and to minimise wastage, the MCA will give one calendar year from March 2021 to allow for medicines and equipment to be replenished and where necessary for seafarers to be trained in use of any new medical stores they now carry (see particularly section 3 of this notice).

2. Category A and B ship's medical stores

- 2.1 For ships carrying Category A & B medical stores, they should comply with the new requirements set out in see Annex 1 of MSN1905 by the time of the ship's next Maritime Labour Convention certificate renewal or when replenishment is necessary, or by one year from the date of this notice (i.e. the end of March 2022), whichever is earliest.



3. Category C ship's medical stores

- 3.1 Category C Stores for liferafts are generally purchased in sealed units, which should be replaced as a unit if unused at the expiry date. Other Category C kits may be replenished as items are used (see MGN 524 (M+F)).
- 3.2 In MSN1905, a new "risk assessed" option to allow additional items for ships that carry Category C medical stores has become available. The minimum contents of a Category C kit are designed to provide for immediate care where a minor delay is considered acceptable. For some vessels operating with Category C medical stores, the machinery on board or the type of operation may give rise to risks which this kit is not adequate to treat. If a risk assessment shows that because of the nature of the work on board, or the type or pattern of operation, the range of stores required in a Category C kit may not be adequate to respond to likely medical requirements on board then the owner or master should consider whether a vessel operating less than 60 miles from a safe haven should carry some or all of the additional items marked "RA" (for risk assessment) in Column 4C in Annex 1 in MSN1905.
- 3.3 If ship operators decide to carry any or all of the RA items, the owner must therefore ensure that the Master and any person in charge of medical treatment have the appropriate level of training to use the medical stores and equipment carried. This includes any additional training required to use RA items. This MIN allows ship operators one calendar year until March 2022 to review their risk assessment in order to decide if they need to carry any RA items and to arrange additional training for their crew. Please contact your approved training provider for information on when updated training syllabuses reflecting MSN1905 requirements will be available.

4. Medicine or equipment expiration dates within the year implementation period

- 4.1 In order to stop excess wastage of unused medicine or equipment, an implementation period of one year has been permitted. Replacement of medical stores by the ship operator will be due by the end of March 2022 allowing medicine or equipment to be replaced with any recommended alternative as and when it expires. E.g. if a medicine which has been altered in MSN 1905 expires in December 2021, it does not need to be replaced and disposed of immediately. It should be replaced with the recommended alternative when it expires in December 2021, as that will be within the implementation period of one year.

5. Notice to Approved training providers

- 5.1 Approved training providers will have one calendar year to amend training syllabuses with the new requirements of MSN1905.



More Information

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