

**Circular 53/ 2013**

**To: Vessel Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties**

**Subject: Medicine Chest Medical Equipment and Guides On Board**

**Date: 13.02.2013**

### **Summary**

Please be advised that the Maritime Cook Islands has received the following information:

The Panamanian Maritime Authority has advised that Flag and Port State Control (PSC) surveyors in Panamanian jurisdictional waters shall verify the on-board existence of medicine chests, medical equipment and guides, whose specifications shall prescribe and be submitted to periodical inspections, taking into account the number of persons on board, the type and nature of the vessel, the destination and the duration of the voyage.

The surveyors shall ensure the control of labels, expiration dates, conditions for the conservation of medicines and the corresponding prospects, as well as the proper functioning of the equipment.

In addition, personnel in charge of on-board medical assistance must have satisfactorily completed a medical first aid or medical care training in accordance to the requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW, 1978), Rule VI/4, Section A-VI/4, paragraphs 1 – 6.

Training should be based on the content of the recent editions of the International Medical Guide for Ships, the Medical First Aid Guide for Use in Accidents Involving Dangerous Goods, the document that will serve as guidance for the training of Seafarers and the medical section for the International Code of Signals.

Those vessels trading in Panamanian jurisdictional waters should ensure that their operations department and on-board crew are aware of this requirement, which came into effect on 1 January 2013.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: <http://panamatravelolution.com/segumar/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Medicine-Chest-Medical-Equipment-and-Guides-On-Board-JAN2013.pdf>

For further information or clarification please contact the Registrar of Ships, a Deputy Registrar or Fleet Manager at Maritime Cook Islands; alternatively you may contact Maritime Cook Islands Head Office at +682 23848 Phone, +682 23846 Fax, [fleet@maritimecookislands.com](mailto:fleet@maritimecookislands.com)

Please ensure this has been forwarded to interested parties.