

Subject

Medical Oxygen Cylinder onboard Marshall Islands
flagged vessels

ClassNK

Technical Information

No. TEC-1249
Date 8 November 2021

To whom it may concern

The Marshall Islands Government has published a Notice of the special requirements for carriage of Medical Oxygen Cylinders onboard the Marshall Islands flagged vessels ([Marine Notice No.2-011-2 Rev. Jun/2021](#)). From the previous Notice (Rev. Nov/2019), the texts of item 5 related to checking and changing of the cylinders are revised. And the requirement of the shipboard Safety Management System (SMS) for carrying dangerous goods is added in item 7 of this Technical Information.

This Technical Information supersedes the previous ClassNK Technical Information No.TEC-1197 dated 24 December 2019.

The main points of the Notice are as follows.

1. Vessels that fall under Column A or B of the MFAG Appendix 14 – List of Equipment, are required to carry a minimum of 44 L/200 bar oxygen as follows:
"Column A" means the requirement for the vessels when casualties cannot be hospitalized on shore within 24 hours, and "Column B" means the requirement for the vessels when casualties can be hospitalized on shore within 2 to 24 hours.
 - (1) one 40 L/200 bar Medical Oxygen Cylinder located in the vessel's hospital, assembled for direct use, equipped with one flowmeter unit (two ports) for supplying oxygen for two persons simultaneously; and
 - (2) one complete portable set, ready for use, with a 2 L/200 bar Medical Oxygen Cylinder and a spare cylinder (also 2 L/200 bar).
2. The single 40 L/200 bar Medical Oxygen Cylinder may be substituted with either two 20 L/200 bar cylinders or four 10 L/200 bar cylinders, provided the equipment/flowmeter units are arranged to supply oxygen to two persons simultaneously.

(To be continued)

NOTES:

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3. Medical oxygen cylinders with less than a 200 bar filling pressure may be used provided that the total volume of oxygen delivered by multiple cylinders is at least equal to that contained in a 40 L/200 bar cylinder or a 2 L/200 bar cylinder. To ensure that the correct volume is substituted, consultation with the manufacturer is required prior to their use onboard the vessel. Additionally:
 - (1) the filling pressure for all cylinders is to be the same;
 - (2) the cylinders are to be stored in a fixed position to prevent movements during bad weather conditions;
 - (3) the cylinders are to be fitted with a pressure regulating unit and pressure gauge, with one extra key to open the cylinder; and
 - (4) all cylinders are to be the same connectors and color.
4. The cylinders are to be hydrostatically tested every five years, or at an interval specified by the manufacturer, whichever occurs sooner.
5. The contents of the cylinders are to be checked and changed as required by manufacturer's instructions.
6. The entire system is to be inspected annually by a competent person in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
7. It is acceptable that a vessel issued with a valid Document of Compliance for Dangerous Goods need not carry Medical Oxygen Cylinders while not actually loading, carrying or discharging any such dangerous goods. The shipboard Safety Management System (SMS) is to include provisions to ensure that the cylinders and system will be provided onboard before the vessel begins any of these operations with dangerous goods.
8. MFAG is applicable to all vessels carrying cargoes which have a UN number. In this respect, it is to be noted that the preamble of the MFAG states that it should be used in conjunction with the information provided in the IMDG Code, the IMSBC Code, the Emergency Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods (EmS), IBC Code and IGC Code.
9. Compliance with above 1 to 8 on Medical Oxygen Cylinders is to be applied to new gas carriers and chemical tankers constructed on or after 1 July 2016.
10. For existing gas carriers and chemical tankers, which are not currently provided with medical oxygen in accordance with above 1 to 8, compliance is to be required at the next intermediate or renewal survey after 1 July 2016.

Compliance with the above on Medical Oxygen Cylinders is to be verified at periodical SE survey and initial survey.

(To be continued)

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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