



CARRIAGE OF FIRST AID SUPPLIES ON DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL VESSELS

This document describes a solution that the National Regulator considers will achieve the outcome required by the applicable standard, within the limits of the service category of the vessel on which the solution is implemented. It is not the only solution that may achieve the required outcome.

Application

This generic equivalent solution is available to vessels operating in operational areas C, C Restricted, D or E that are required to comply with the *National Standard for Commercial Vessels – Part C7A – Safety Equipment* (NSCV Part C7A).

Required Outcomes

Referenced from NSCV Part C7A, chapter 2:

2.2 TYPE AND QUANTITY

A vessel must be provided with safety equipment of type and quantity appropriate to control to acceptable levels the risks associated with the operation of the vessel, taking into account its area of operation and the number of persons on board as well as other risk factors that might be relevant.

2.17 FIRST AID

Sufficient and appropriate medical supplies must be maintained to treat likely individual injuries until professional medical treatment becomes available.

NOTE: Factors that should be taken into account include the proximity of shore-based health services, operation within areas served by helicopters and the medical training of persons on the vessel.

2.18 MEANS TO SUSTAIN AND PROLONG LIFE OF EVACUEES

Survival equipment must be arranged and equipped to protect the health and safety of evacuees in the event that rescue is delayed.

Current Requirement

Annex H of NSCV Part C7A requires vessels to carry certain 'scale medical kits/cabinets' depending on the vessel use and operational categories that pertain to the vessel.

Carriage of first aid supplies on domestic commercial vessels

Equivalent Solution

The owner/master of a vessel operating in operational area C, C Restricted, D or E may undertake a risk assessment of their vessel and operation, and determine the appropriate type and quantity of first aid supplies that are to be carried on board the vessel for that operation. If necessary, assistance may be sought from an appropriately experienced pharmaceutical provider or first aid provider/supplier (e.g. St John Ambulance Australia) in order to do so.

The risk assessment and subsequent determination of the type and quantity of first aid supplies carried on board the vessel must:

- consider the required outcomes of the NSCV C7A (see above); and
- as a minimum comply with WHS Code of Practice; and
- where necessary, include additional items needed to address identified risks including the following:
 - distance/time to access medical aid;
 - communication capability to access medical assistance and advice;
 - type of operation and activities being undertaken (e.g. types and level of hazards likely to be encountered);
 - length of the voyage;
 - number of persons on board;
 - the profile of persons on board (e.g. children, elderly, level of experience, gender etc.);
 - the level of first aid training of the crew, personnel and persons on board including the first aid procedures and drills carried out on board the vessel;
 - prevailing or expected environmental conditions likely to be encountered on the voyage;
 - Incidents and accidents that have occurred in the operation and in the wider industry sector.

To enable regular review and ease of resupply, it is recommended that the risk assessment and resulting list of first aid items (that will be carried on board the vessel) are kept with the vessels records or as part of the operations safety management system.

If the way operations are conducted change or new practices are introduced, owners/masters will need to review their risk assessment and first aid kit supplies to ensure that their arrangements remain effective.