



GUIDANCE NOTICE

Scale E Medical Cabinet

This Guidance Notice provides details of the medical supplies and equipment required under the National Standard for Commercial Vessels (NSCV) for the following vessel classes: 1C (with berthed passengers), 2B and 3B. A Scale F first aid kit is also required.

This Guidance Notice is accurate as at 1 March 2014. Please check the current version of the NSCV and maritime legislation, or contact the National Regulator, to confirm current requirements.

Introduction

This Guidance Notice specifies the minimum medical supplies and equipment necessary to treat minor medical conditions or injuries, or to temporarily stabilise a patient until transfer to medical assistance can be arranged. The supplies and quantities specified may need to be expanded in accordance with the particular risks inherent to the voyage, the length of the voyage, access to medical facilities, the cargoes carried, and the number of persons on board. Owners and operators should obtain medical advice in specifying medical supplies for their vessels.

If you are unsure of the nature or seriousness of an illness or injury, radio medical advice should be sought and, if necessary, medical evacuation by helicopter should be initiated. If a child requires treatment, radio medical advice should be sought as the medical inventories are designed for adults.

Please note the following:

Persons administering first aid should possess as a minimum a current first aid qualification in accordance with the NSCV Part D. Persons administering the supplies under Scale E should possess a current First Aid Certificate or, more preferably the Occupational level of First Aid Certificate, First Aid Oxygen therapy, Asthma management, and the use of Air Splints.

Medical supplies must not exceed the expiry date specified by the manufacturer or supplier of the product.

Antibiotics must always be supplied in original packages or patient courses. Other products such as analgesics and creams will be considered adequate if an opened package contains at least 50 per cent of the original quantity, and the remaining product is uncontaminated and unaffected by any expiry date as a result of any seal being broken.

Medication should be provided in original, sealed blister or foil packs where possible.

All products must carry instructions and directions for use in English and clearly state the adult dose where applicable to enable safe and effective use of the medication for the intended purpose(s).

Medical cabinet

- All vessels must be provided with a medical cabinet of suitable size, design and construction for storing medical supplies.
- The cabinet must be located either:
 - in a separate compartment adjacent to the hospital accommodation;
 - where hospital accommodation is not provided, adjacent to the vessel officers' accommodation; or
 - in a dry and cool space accessible to the Master and a nominated crew member.
- The cabinet must be provided with:
 - an outer door, fitted with an efficient lock;
 - an inner cupboard, independently locked, for storing special drugs (noted in the table below with the symbol “*” or “#”);
 - a dispensing counter or table, with an impervious surface, which may be a shelf in the medical cabinet;
 - suitable storage space for medicines and measuring devices, which facilitate identification of various items; and
 - illumination by electric light from inside or immediately outside the cabinet.
- The cabinet must be clearly identified on the outer door with an appropriate sign or sticker.
- The cabinet must be cleaned and checked every three (3) months.

Items to be stored in medical cabinet

Description	Qty	Notes	Comments
Antibiotic ointment 15g or 20g	1	* †	Infected wound
<i>Mupirocin 2% ointment 15g</i>	1	* †	<i>Ointment preferred for dry wounds</i>
<i>Mupirocin 2% cream 15g</i>	1	* †	<i>Cream preferred for weeping wounds</i>
<i>Povidone-Iodine 10% ointment 25g</i>	1	* †	<i>Ointment preferred for dry wounds</i>
<i>Povidone-Iodine 5% cream 20g</i>	1	* †	<i>Cream preferred for weeping wounds</i>
Chloramphenicol eye ointment 4g	1	* †	Eye antibiotic
<i>Tetracycline 1% eye ointment 5g</i>	1	* †	
Glyceryl Trinitrate 400mcg spray	1	†	Angina / heart pain
<i>Glyceryl Trinitrate 600mcg sublingual tablets 100</i>	2	†	<i>Discard pack 90 days after opening</i>
Paracetamol 500mg / Codeine 30mg tabs	20	* †	Moderate-severe pain also cough suppression
<i>Paracetamol 500mg/Codeine Phosphate 15mg tablets</i>	20	* †	<i>Do NOT exceed EIGHT tablets in ONE day</i>
Prochlorperazine 5mg tablets	25	* †	Nausea, giddiness
<i>Ondansetron 4mg tablets</i>	30	* †	
Prochlorperazine 25mg suppositories	5	* †	<i>Vomiting, giddiness</i>
<i>Ondansetron 8mg wafer</i>	10	* †	<i>Wafers to be placed on top of the tongue</i>
<i>Prochlorperazine 3mg Buccal tablets</i>	50	* †	<i>Absorbed through the buccal cavity</i>
Salbutamol inhaler	1	†	Asthma attack
<i>Terbutaline 500mcg/dose metered inhaler</i>	1	* †	
Sodium chloride and glucose or dextrose compound, powder sachets, 4.9g approx.	10	†	Rehydration
<i>Glucose/Citric Acid/Potassium Citrate/Sodium Chloride Powder sachets 4.76g</i>	10	†	
Scalpel (sterile and disposable)	3		
Appropriate additional first aid, medicinal antidotes and other additional treatments as specified by the manufacturer, supplier or other authorised body or publication, including the material safety data sheets relating to the hazardous chemical or goods		As specified	Required on vessels carrying as cargo, or in shipboard use, any quantity of a hazardous or dangerous chemical or goods as defined under the International Maritime Goods Code.
List of contents, brief instructions for use, expiry dates and last check dates	1		Stowed within or adjacent to the cabinet

Notes: † Expiry dated

* Requires prescription

Items shown in italics are considered an equivalent substitution when the medication required by the standard is unavailable.

Items that may be stored separately, but should be readily accessible to the crew

Description	Qty	Notes	Comments
Splint set, vacuum or air inflation	1		
Neck collar, multi-size, rigid, fully adjustable	1		
BVM air resuscitator	1		
Medical Log Book	1		To record the use of all medicines, first aid and medical incidents, including the name of the patient, date and time, condition, and treatment.
SAE Defibrillator (Laerdal First Aid unit or similar)	Optional		Recommended for Class 1 vessels. Where this is carried, SAE Defibrillation training should be undertaken.
Stretcher for helicopter evacuation / ship board use	Optional		Recommended for Class 1 vessels
First Aid Oxygen Unit (Oxyport or equal)	Optional		Recommended for Class 1 vessels