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To: Ship Owners, Ship Managers and Parties Concerned

Dear Sir/Madam,

Medicines and Medical Stores for Hong Kong Registered Ships

This Administration has received several enquiries about the requirements of medicines and medical stores on board Hong Kong registered ships. This circular serves to remind the ship owners, ship managers and parties concerned of the revised requirements which came into force in 2017. For details, please refer to the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Medical Stores) Regulation, Cap.478X.

Section 4 of Cap.478X stipulates that a seagoing ship must not proceed on a voyage unless there are kept on board the ship medicines and medical stores in compliance with Schedule 1. Schedule 1 has the following requirements:

- (a) there must be kept on board a seagoing ship every medicine listed in the Recommended List*, in the quantity set out in Annex 3 to the Quantification Addendum*; and
- (b) there must be kept on board a seagoing ship every equipment, material and instrument listed in the Recommended List, in the quantity set out in the Recommended List*.

* **Notes:**

Quantification Addendum, means the Quantification Addendum: International Medical Guide for Ships published by the World Health Organization (WHO), as amended from time to time. This publication could be down-loaded from the WHO website free of charge: <http://www.who.int/iris/handle/10665/44341>

Recommended List, means the List of Recommended Medicines and Equipment set out in Chapter 33 of the International Medical Guide for Ships published by the World Health Organization, as amended from time to time. The International Medical Guide for Ships could be down-loaded from the WHO website free of charge: <http://www.who.int/iris/handle/10665/43814>

With the above mentioned latest legislation, the Hong Kong Flag requirements for medicines and medical stores on board Hong Kong registered seagoing cargo ships are consistent with those stipulated in the relevant WHO publications.

Though there is no plan for amending the above mentioned Hong Kong legislation in the near future, Companies shall be aware of any future amendments to the relevant WHO publications, and adjust the medical scales on board accordingly.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Cargo Ships Safety Section as follows:

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Yours faithfully,

No signature on website copy

(C.L. FONG)
Senior Surveyor of Ships / Cargo Ships Safety Section
for Director of Marine