

MEDICAL EVACUATION (MEDEVAC) OPERATIONS

TO REGIONAL MANAGERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SHIP AGENTS, PORT AUTHORITIES, SHIP OWNERS, SHIP MANAGERS, SEAFARERS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

ISSUE DATE	17 February 2022	EXPIRY DATE	16 February 2027 or unless withdrawn	REFERENCE	SM 6/5/2/1/MN
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Marine Notice's affected

<i>Cancelled or superseded:</i>	24 of 2020	<i>Read in conjunction with:</i>	Not Applicable
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SUMMARY

This Marine Notice serves to inform industry of the procedure to be followed when considering the evacuation of persons off vessels due to medical reasons irrespective of severity or nature of medical condition. To ensure consistency in abiding by the various Government health directives, advisories, and the World Health Organisation warnings regarding Communicable Disease it remains prudent that the following measures are implemented in order to safeguard South Africa and its citizens.

Background

Removal of the person(s) from the vessel and the delivery to a Medical Facility during a MEDEVAC operation often relates to a life threatening casualty. With the increase in World Health Organisation warnings relating to infectious diseases and viruses, such as EBOLA and COVID-19, and subject to Government Health Directives it has become necessary to include medical incidents, which was normally dealt with between the Shipping Agent and the relevant Port Authorities, where persons suffer from medical conditions other than posing grave and imminent threat to life, to the MEDEVAC process. The MEDEVAC process is aimed at the mitigation of risk to the Vessel, the ill person, the MEDEVAC recovery unit, the relevant shore parties, and the South African Citizens while still ensuring that those in need of medical treatment are afforded the opportunity.

MEDEVAC Process

With the appreciation that a MEDEVAC Operation might vary in urgency, this process is described in general as:

1. As soon as it becomes known that there is/are persons on board vessels with illness/sickness/injury and/or requiring medical evacuation for whatever reason into South Africa the following procedure is to be strictly adhered to.
2. The Captain or other competent person onboard, must obtain radio medical advice from Metro Western Cape Emergency Duty Doctor and if necessary, complete the TMAS (Telemedical Advice at Sea) document. TMAS document may be obtained from MRCC Cape Town or is available for download using the link: [TMAS FORM](#). an explanatory sample for guidance to the person completing the document is provided at the end of this document.
3. The Doctor evaluating the case will include considerations for case definitions related to infectious diseases/virus when providing medical advice.
4. The Doctor will advise the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) of the MEDEVAC recommendations.
5. The Captain or other competent person onboard/shipping agent must contact and inform the nearest Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA Port Control office) of the MEDEVAC recommendation. The details to be included in this report are:
 - 5.1. Standard text TMAS format information when available,
 - 5.2. Last 10 Ports of Call where personnel embarked or disembarked (crew changes etc), or possible shore contact took place during goods transfer
 - 5.3. Three separate body temperature recordings of the patient to be evacuated, taken at intervals of at least 4 hours, where applicable,
 - 5.4. Whether the vessel took passengers, crew or goods from any of the countries identified as posing a risk or any other area affected by communicable disease and virus within the previous 21 days.
 - 5.5. Any crew changes that may have occurred from any of these countries.

6. Captain or other competent person onboard are to ensure that local shipping agents, if not already appointed, are appointed and given all necessary details pertaining to the request including information relevant to infectious diseases.
7. Captain or other competent person onboard are also required to submit an ISPS application in terms of the ISPS Code as a declaration of interaction with services from shore and engagement with vessels, aircraft or any other means for purposes of the MEDEVAC.
8. Captain or other competent person onboard of vessels requiring Medical assistance/MEDEVAC must report all illness/sickness and deaths of crew/passengers on board within the last 21 days, to the Port Health Authority either directly or through a Shipping Agent.
9. Shipping Agents appointed to manage a MEDEVAC must contact the Port Health Authority to provide all necessary information relevant to infectious diseases and to establish whether permission is granted to land patient(s) by MEDEVAC.
10. A MEDEVAC may only occur with the permission of the Port Health Authority, or MRCC Cape Town
11. Such permission will include instructions from the Port Health Authority and/or MRCC on the methodology/means to be applied during the MEDEVAC – which could include the presence of a Port Health Official at any MEDEVAC.
12. Shipping Agents are to ensure that the Captain or other competent person onboard provides the Transnet National Ports Authority with all the required clearance applications. Shipping Agents may obtain such directly from Transnet National Ports Authority Office within their regions.
13. Only persons and organisations trained in infectious disease control measures with the required capacity and equipment are permitted to conduct a MEDEVAC when Communicable Disease Case definitions are met.
14. All the prescribed measures stipulated by Port Authorities (Health, Immigration, Customs) are to be met by the Shipping Agents on behalf of the vessels and the Port Authorities are to ensure the necessary actions are taken should the vessel require quarantine.

NOTE: MEDEVAC operations may not take place from vessels, whether locally or foreign registered, without the MRCC being firstly advised and secondly that authorisation is received for such operation to take place.

EXPLANATORY SAMPLE: COMPLETED TMAS



MARITIME MEDEVAC TELEMEDICAL ASSISTANCE FORM

DATE: 29 JULY 2023

FROM:	VESSEL BRICKSTAR	
TO:	MRCC CAPE TOWN	
Code Prefix	Request	Response
SECTION TO BE COMPLETED/PROVIDED BY VESSEL CAPTAIN		
A	Vessel name, call sign, flag, port of registry, and type	e.g.: /BRICKSTAR/ABCD/OSKA/ST PAULS/CONTAINER SHIP//
B	Time of report in UTC. 6 digit date time group in UTC followed by the month	e.g.: /291000 JUL//
C	The position of the ship at the time of reporting	e.g.: /1212S 00527E//
D	Available disembarkation methods	e.g.: HELICOPTER LAND ON, HELICOPTER HOIST; VESSEL CRANE//
E	Destination of ship	e.g.: /CAPETOWN//
F	Ports of Call covering the previous 21 days	e.g.: LAGOS / NIGERIA 25Apr14//CANARY ISLANDS 20Apr14 /PORTUGAL 17Apr14//SOUTHAMPTON 04Apr14//
G	Shipping Agent and Name	e.g.: BLOGGS SHIPPING/ PETER PAN
H	Estimate Time of Arrival as DTG and in UTC	e.g.: /010700 MAY//
I	Contact person on board ship	e.g.: /CAPTAIN//

J1	Patient name and surname	e.g.: /JOE SOAP//
J2	Date of Birth of patient (DDMMYYYY)	e.g.: /21041961//
J3	Age of patient	e.g.: /48//
J4	MALE OR FEMALE	e.g.: /MALE//
J5	Nationality and Identification number of patient	e.g.: /GREEK//B215784215
J6	Occupation on board of the patient	e.g.: /2ND OFFICER//
J7	Cause of Medical circumstances of patient on board the ship	e.g.: /ILLNESS// or /ACCIDENT// or /POISONING//
J8	Previous medical history of the patient if available	e.g.: /CHRONIC HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE//
J9	Medical care advised by Medical Consulting Physician (Please include it with this TMAS)	e.g.: /CIRM//
J10	Type of care given to patient by ships personnel since the onset of the medical issue	e.g.: /TREATMENT AND MEDICATION AS RECOMMENDED BY CIRM//
J11	Systolic	e.g.: 110
J12	Diastolic	e.g.: 80
J13	Number of breaths per minute	e.g.: / 11 per minute//
J14	Temperature of patient	e.g.: / 37 Celsius//
J15	Pulse of patient	e.g.: / 72 per minute//
J16	Weight of patient	e.g.: / 96 kilograms
J17	Height of patient	e.g.: / 1.7 meters
K	Provide a list of the medical equipment and medication stores on board the vessel in order to assist with MEDICO	e.g.: AS PER SHIPS MEDICAL SUPPLIES

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED/PROVIDED BY MRCC MEDICAL DOCTOR

Code Prefix	Request	Response
L	Diagnosis by Medical Consulting Physician	e.g.: SUSPECTED PELVIS FRACTURE WITH INTERNAL BLEEDING
M	Medical Treatment advised by Medical Consulting Physician	e.g.: IMMOBILISE CASUALTY, NPM
N	Medical Evacuation recommended – Yes or No	e.g.: YES
O	Treatment measures recommended if MEDEVAC cannot be done immediately	e.g.: PLACE ALS ONBOARD
P	Recommended method of disembarking	e.g.: HELICOPTER or SURFACE LAUNCH or VESSEL TO ENTER PORT
Q	Additional Medical Support recommended for disembarking	e.g.: ALS or DOCTOR//
R	Additional disembarking criteria	e.g. PATIENT TO BE IMMOBILISED or PATIENT TO BE TRANQUILISED
S	Does the patient need to be in quarantine. Yes or No	e.g.: No

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