



# Antigua and Barbuda

## Maritime Administration

Directive  
No: 002-2022  
29 November 2022

The Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS), in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 7, sub-section (3) of the Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act 2006, issues the following Directive:

### 1. CITATION AND COMMENCEMENT

This Directive may be cited as the **Merchant Shipping (Ship's Medical Stores) Directive 2022** and shall come into force on 1 December 2022

### 2. INTERPRETATION

In this Directive:

"ADOMS" means the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping;

"Antidotes" means a substance used to prevent or treat a harmful effect or effects, direct or indirect, of one or more dangerous substances;

"Antigua and Barbuda ship" means a ship which is registered or licensed under the Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act 2006 (as amended);

"Company" means the owner of a ship or any other organization or person such as the manager, or the bareboat charterer, who has assumed the responsibility for the operation of the ship from the ship owner and who, on assuming such responsibility, has agreed to take over all duties and responsibilities imposed on the company by these regulations;

"Dangerous goods" are those goods referred to in the IMDG Code, as defined in regulation VII/1.1 of SOLAS;

"International voyages" means voyages worldwide;

"International coastal voyages" means voyages during which the ship is never more than 50 miles offshore;

"Master" includes every person having command or charge of any ship other than a pilot;

"Medical stores" includes medical supplies such as medicines, medical equipment, and antidotes;

"Near coastal voyages" means voyages from any port or place in Antigua and Barbuda to any other port or place in Antigua and Barbuda during which the ship is never more than 30 miles from a safe haven in Antigua and Barbuda;

"Restricted international voyages" means voyages during which the ship is never more than 200 nautical miles offshore;

"SOLAS" means the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.

### **3. APPLICATION**

This Directive applies to all Antigua and Barbuda ships except for:

1. Ships owned or operated by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.
2. Pleasure yachts not engaged in trade.
3. Ships not propelled by mechanical means.
4. Fishing vessels.
5. Tugs operating in Harbour areas.
6. Ships operated in accordance with the requirements of the IMO Code of Safety for Small Commercial Vessels operating in the Caribbean Trading Area.

### **4. APPLICATION BY REFERENCE**

Any reference in this Directive to a Medical Guide, Medical Scale or a Merchant Shipping Notice is to be construed as –

1. a reference to the Medical Guide, Medical Scale or a Merchant Shipping Notice code or the provision in that code as modified from time to time; and
2. if the Medical Guide, Medical Scale, or a Merchant Shipping Notice is replaced by another instrument, as a reference to the provision in that other instrument

### **5. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND COMPLIANCE**

1. This Directive sets out the minimum requirements of ADOMS for medical stores on board Antigua and Barbuda ships.
2. All medical stores kept on board Antigua and Barbuda ships in accordance with this Directive shall conform to the standards and requirements of:
  1. The World Health Organization (WHO) "International Medical Guide for Ships", as amended; or
  2. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN) 1905 (M+F) Amendment 1; or
  3. The German Merchant Shipping Medical Scales (GMSMS), as amended.
3. For Antigua and Barbuda ships complying with the WHO standards and requirements in 5(2)(1), the quantities for medicine shall be derived from the International Medical Guide for Ships 3<sup>rd</sup> edition and any subsequent revisions.
4. For Antigua and Barbuda ships complying with the MCA standards and requirements in 5(2)(2), the following categories of vessels and the consequent requirements for medical stores shall apply:
  1. Category A: Antigua and Barbuda ships engaged on international voyages.
  2. Category B: Antigua and Barbuda ships engaged on restricted international voyages.
  3. Category C: Antigua and Barbuda ships engaged on international coastal voyages or near coastal voyages.

5. For Antigua and Barbuda ships complying with the GMSMS standards and requirements in 5(2)(3), the following categories of vessels and the consequent requirements for medical stores shall apply:
  1. Intermediate trade and long-distance trade: Antigua and Barbuda Ships engaged on international voyages.
  2. Great coastal trade: Antigua and Barbuda ships engaged on restricted international voyages.
  3. National trade and small coastal trade: Antigua and Barbuda ships engaged on international Coastal voyages or near coastal voyages.
6. The requirements for medical stores are set out in the schedules attached to the publications referred to in 5(2).
7. Companies may, on the advice of a qualified medical practitioner or pharmacist determine whether any additional or different quantities in medical stores are required, considering i.e., type of an intended voyage, ports of call, type of cargo, number of crew, duration of voyage and type of work to be carried out during the voyage.
8. Every Antigua and Barbuda ship to which this Directive applies shall carry for each of its lifeboats and life-rafts a watertight medicine chest containing at least the medical supplies specified in the schedules to the documents referred to in 5(2).

## **6. MEDICINES FOR SHIPS CARRYING DANGEROUS GOODS.**

1. Ships carrying dangerous goods, or their residues shall comply with the IMDG Code and the guidance in the IMO/WHO/ILO Medical First Aid Guide for use in accidents involving dangerous goods (MFAG) 1994 or, if applicable, the guidance in Annex 4 to MSN 1905 (M+F).

## **7. RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The general responsibility for compliance with the requirement of this Directive shall remain with the company.
2. Each company shall ensure that:
  1. Medical stores are accompanied by one or more guides to their use, including instructions for use of at least the antidotes required.
  2. The master or any person authorized by the master to dispense and use drugs, medicines etc. on patients on board has undergone approved training and holds the appropriate certificate as a Designated Medical Care Provider, issued by a foreign national Administration of the seafarers' origin.
3. The master is responsible to ensure that any necessary medical attention on board a ship is given either by him or under his supervision by a competent and certified person appointed by him for that purpose.

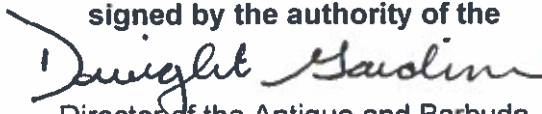
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4. The master is also responsible for the maintenance of medical stores on board a vessel, ensuring that they are kept in good condition.
  5. Medical advice from ashore should be sought as necessary.

## 8. INSPECTIONS

1. Medical stores shall be subject to inspection by a qualified medical practitioner or pharmacist who shall issue a certificate of inspection, at least every twelve (12) months to ensure that:
  1. Medical stores meet the requirements of this Directive.
  2. Medical supplies are stored correctly.
  3. Medical supplies are kept according to their periods of validity.
  4. Acts of dispensing medical supplies have been recorded
2. Provided where in any case the inspection under 8(1) is impracticable, ADOMS may extend this period to seventeen (17) months.
3. Inspections of medical supplies stored on life-rafts shall be performed during their annual inspection, as required by Regulation III/20.8. of SOLAS.

## 9. REVOCATION OF DIRECTIVE 01-2005 SHIPS MEDICAL STORES

This Directive revokes and replaces Directive 01-2005 Ships Medical Stores.

signed by the authority of the  
 29.11.2022  
Director of the Antigua and Barbuda  
Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping  
(ADOMS) St. John's