Lloyd`s Classification Limited

Circular Information

Circular No.: CIR2021-2
Date: 20 September 2021

Subject
Oxygen Cylinders onboard Panamanian Flagged Ships

To whom it may concern

The Panama Maritime Authority has issued Merchant Marine Circular (MMC) No.339 concerning special requirements for oxygen cylinders onboard Panamanian flagged ships. The following items are outlined in the Circular.

1. According to the International 'Medical Guide for Ships', the following items are recommended for the administration of oxygen.

Recommended Items	Quantity per 10 crew
Complete portable oxygen set containing.	1
1 oxygen cylinder, 2L/200 bar	1
1 spare oxygen cylinder, 2L/200 bar	1
Pressure regulating unit and flow meter with tubes such that the ship's industrial oxygen can also be used	1
3 disposable face masks of choice including simple face mask and non-rebreathing mask	3

2. All Panamanian flagged ships carrying dangerous goods in accordance with the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Regulations (IMDG Code) are required to be equipped with special equipment including oxygen cylinders according to the 'Medical First Aid Guide'.
It is acceptable that a ship issued with a valid Document of Compliance for Dangerous Goods need not carry special equipment such as medical oxygen cylinders while not actually loading carrying or discharging any such dangerous goods.

3. Ships carrying the oxygen cylinders described above shall ensure that the oxygen cylinders are inspected as follows:
i) The bottles shall be annually inspected.
ii) The contents of the cylinders are to be checked and changed as required by the manufacturers.
iii) The cylinders shall be hydrostatically tested every five years.
iv) Such hydraulic testing must be carried out by an accredited service agent or test facility.
v) Following the hydraulic test, a thorough inspection and internal examination must be carried out prior to recharging.
vi) The test certificates must be provided and retained on board for inspection.

4. The Administration will not extend the validity of the oxygen cylinder inspection as an on-board safety and health protection measure