

## Marine Information Bulletin

### Carriage and administration of drugs by a ship's master

Issued 14 April 2010

#### Purpose

The purpose of this Marine Information Bulletin is to clarify the allowable carriage of restricted drugs on board commercial and fishing ships as per the National Standards for Commercial Vessels Part C section 7A.

#### Background

By 1 July 2011, commercial and fishing ships must comply with the National Standards for Commercial Vessels Part C section 7A which includes compulsory requirements for on-board medical supplies. Some industry groups raised concerns that Scale E and D in Annex H of the standard include restricted drugs (Table H.3 Scale E and D Medication).

#### Clarification of requirements

The health department issues advice to workplaces about the medicines which are prohibited in the normal workplace First Aid kit. This advice is passed on by Workplace Health and Safety and First Aid training organisations for normal workplaces. However, the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* which is administered by the health department specifically recognises the different situation that a ship environment presents and has included special mention and allowances so that ship operators can fulfil their obligations under the *Navigation Act 1912* and the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*. These allowances are referred to in *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* section 69, section 178 and section 264(a).

#### Summary of the extract

A ship's master is authorised to obtain, possess and administer S2 or S3 class drugs on the ship for the treatment of a person in an emergency to the extent necessary to comply with the *Navigation Act 1912* (Commonwealth) or the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*. This only applies if the purchase order for the drug is signed by a doctor; and the drug is administered by a doctor or on a doctor's oral or written instruction.

#### Administering the restricted drugs

Restricted drugs must only be administered by a person who has the appropriate training or is being directed by a trained person in an emergency.

#### Information

For further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, email [msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au](mailto:msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au).

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of ships can be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website [www.msq.qld.gov.au](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au) and from the following Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices:

Airlie Beach	(07) 4946 2200
Bundaberg	(07) 4131 8500
Cairns	(07) 4052 7400
Gladstone	(07) 4973 1200
Hervey Bay	(07) 4194 9600
Mackay	(07) 4944 3700
Mooloolaba	(07) 5477 8425
Pinkenba	(07) 3860 3500
Southport	(07) 5539 7300
Townsville	(07) 4726 3400