

CIRCULAR No 74

PORTUGUESE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT | Requirements to ensure the quality of drinking water provided on board Portuguese flagged vessels

To | Shipowners, Companies, Operators, Recognized Organizations and Masters of Portuguese flagged vessels

DISCLAIMER | This document is for information only and is not intended to interpret or replace the legal referenced documents published by official sources

REFERENCES | Guide to Ship Sanitation, WHO
Decree-Law No 306/2007 of 27 August
Decree-Law No 152/2017 of 7 December

1. OBJECTIVE

The aim of this Circular is to provide information related to the procedural requirements to ensure that drinking water provided on board Portuguese flagged vessels is of good quality and safe for consumption as required by the Portuguese Maritime Administration.

2. DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Shipowners shall take every measure practicable to ensure that drinking water provided on board Portuguese flagged vessels for which they have the responsibility and intended for supply to seafarers and passengers is of good quality and safe for consumption.

Drinking water that conforms to the standards of the World Health Organisation (WHO) “Guide to Ship Sanitation” which is published at: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241546690> is suitable for meeting the requirements of this Circular.

Drinking water that is supplied in bottles or other containers from a supplier supplying drinking water commercially is suitable for meeting the requirements of this Circular.

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3. SHIPS FLYING THE PORTUGUESE FLAG THAT CALL AT PORTUGUESE PORTS

Ships flying the Portuguese flag that supply water for human consumption at the national ports, must comply with the current national legislation, referring to water for human consumption, Decree-Law No 306/2007, amended by Decree-Law No 152/2017. In addition, the Port Health Authority is entitled to order or to undertake additional sampling at any time.

4. SHIPS FLYING THE PORTUGUESE FLAG WITHOUT ACCESS TO A PORTUGUESE PORT

Since many ships under the Portuguese flag do not call at Portuguese ports because of their area of operations, monitoring of drinking water on board is required in accordance with paragraph 5.

5. TESTING OF DRINKING WATER

- a) For all ships irrespective of size where drinking water is stored in tanks, this same water shall be tested at intervals of not more than one year. The test sample should be drawn from the final dispensing point for the water so that the test sample has flowed through the distribution system from tank to dispensing point before being sampled.
- b) Testing of drinking water may be either by:
 - i. submission of a sample to an accredited laboratory for analysis, or
 - ii. self-testing on board using a suitable commercially available test kit. For this purpose, the test kit must be able to provide clear determinations of:

✓ Coliforms and <i>Escherichia coli</i> (E Coli)	✓ Chlorine and pH
✓ <i>Intestinal Enterococci</i>	✓ Turbidity
✓ <i>Total bacteria count</i>	✓ Colour
✓ <i>Legionella bacteria</i>	✓ Iron
✓ <i>Copper</i>	✓ Conductivity
- c) In addition to the chemical and bacteriological tests in b) ii. the water should be seen to be clear, odour free and fresh tasting.
- d) When drinking water is self-tested on board the test shall be conducted at 6 monthly intervals. If on any occasion the test results show values above the ones referred to in Guide to ship sanitation, use of the water shall be suspended and all seafarers advised



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and the Master shall arrange for samples taken in accordance with the sub-paragraph a) in sealed sterile containers to be delivered to an accredited laboratory for testing.

- e) On any occasion where the analysis result shows that the drinking water on board does not meet the WHO Guide to ship sanitation the tanks containing the affected drinking water and the delivery systems from the tanks to the point of use shall be drained, cleaned and sterilised or otherwise rendered sterile for use before being re-filled and retested. This results must be communicated as quickly as possible to the Portuguese Health Authority and de Portuguese Maritime Administration.

6. RECORDS

The Master in every Portuguese ship shall ensure that records are maintained of drinking water testing for presentation to a port state control or a flag state inspector at any time.

Lisbon, 18 November 2022

The General Director of Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services

More information

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