



## VESSELS REQUIRING SHIP INSPECTION CERTIFICATES

### **Overview**

While awaiting the consultation for new Public Health Regulations, APHA has issued the following policy guidance to help authorised ports determine which ships may require Ship Sanitation Certificates (SSC). The interim guidance replaces APHA's previous policy on the issuance of deratting and deratting exemption certificates. APHA's interim policy is in-line with current domestic legislation and will be reviewed in accordance with updated legislation.

### **International Health Regulations 2005**

The International Health Regulations 2005 provide a legal framework for the coordination and management of public health emergencies of international concern. They are legally binding on all WHO State Parties. The Regulations introduce a series of health documents, including ship sanitation certificates (SSC), which are used by competent authorities to identify and record all areas of ship-borne public health risks and, where relevant, describe the control measures to be applied. SSC are valid for six months from the date of issue.

### **Public Health (Ships) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007**

The Public Health (Ships) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007 implement those parts of the International Health Regulations relating to the issuing of SSC.

### **APHA Policy Guidance on Ships Requiring SSC**

APHA's offers the following policy guidance for Port Health Authorities and Local Authorities in determining whether a ship requires SSC:

An authorised officer may inspect any ship arriving from a foreign port (ports other than in the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or the Republic of Ireland) with a view to issuing a Ship Sanitation Certificate (SSC). Additionally, a competent authority may use its discretion to inspect other vessels within its area, irrespective of whether the vessel is undertaking commercial operations or whether there is paid crew aboard, *if* there is a perceived public health risk.

Where an owner of a ship or master of a ship acting on behalf of the owner makes a written request for an SCC, and where said ship is in the area of an authorised port, an authorised officer must inspect the ship and issue the relevant certificate.

Whereby:

*Ship* has the same meaning as “ship” in the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 except that it includes a Hovercraft within the meaning of the Hovercraft Act 1968.

*Ship Sanitation Certificate* includes Ship Sanitation Control Certificates and/or Ship Sanitation Exemption Certificates

*Authorised Port* means “a port authorised to offer the issuance of a Ship Sanitation Control Certificate and the provision of services referred to in Annex 1 of the IHR; and the form reproduced at Schedule 3 of the 1997 Public Health Regulations; the issuance of Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate following inspection of the ship; and the extension of a ship sanitation certificate for a period of one month”.

*Competent Authority* means a competent authority identified in accordance with Article 19 of the IHR and with a role as described at Article 22 of the IHR

## REFERENCES

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