

PART 13

ELDERLY, DISABLED AND SICK PASSENGERS

13.1 Transportation of Disabled and Sick Passengers in Vehicles on Car Decks

13.1.1 Passengers should not be allowed access to vehicle decks once the vessel is underway, unless special arrangements have been made.

13.1.2 To ensure consistency of approach, the following guidance outlines the minimum requirements acceptable to the United Kingdom Administration where there is a need for disabled or sick passengers to remain in Ambulance(s) on the car deck of Ro-Ro passenger ships.

13.1.2.1 Carriage of these vehicles is limited to voyages of no more than 6 hours 30 minutes.

13.1.2.2 Up to 3 vehicles may be carried at the same time.

13.1.2.3 The ship operator is to ensure that a crew member is allocated solely to superintend each vehicle throughout the crossing and to act as a guide in the event of evacuation.

13.1.2.4 The vehicle(s) are to be carried on the uppermost suitable car deck close to the most suitable exit, and firmly secured, giving sufficient space on all sides to permit easy manoeuvrability of any trolleys in an emergency. The vehicle(s) may also be carried on the open deck in fine weather provided they are firmly secured to the deck and no dangerous goods vehicles are carried in the immediate vicinity.

13.1.2.5 If the ships electric supply is used, it is to be used solely to maintain essential services in the vehicle(s), e.g. the air conditioning system. Trailing cables are to be kept to a minimum and the vehicle(s) are to be bonded to the deck by means of a copper cable with visible clamps.

13.1.2.6 The vehicle(s) to be sited under or as close as possible to a drencher head, a fire fighting hose is also to be rigged as near as possible to the vehicle(s). Additionally, foam fire extinguishers are to be provided nearby.

13.1.2.7 Where fitted the "NO SMOKING" sign in the vehicle(s) is to be illuminated before the vehicle reaches the car deck, and kept on throughout the voyage.

13.1.2.8 All mobile patients are to leave the vehicle(s), leaving only those who cannot be readily moved and their attendants.

13.1.2.9 The attendant/patient ratio to be a minimum of 1 to 1, plus an additional nurse in each vehicle where there are more than two patients in a vehicle.

13.1.2.10 No patient, or attendant, to move in or out of the car deck during the crossing, except with the agreement of the crew member allocated to superintend the car deck.

13.1.2.11 The ship operator is requested to provide the Certifying Authority with a list of ships intended to be used, quoting file reference MS 5/1/0194, and that the standards provided will meet at least those stated.

13.1.2.12 It is considered prudent for operators to advise the Administrations of any other country, that the ship intends to visit, and the arrangements provided to safeguard against any possible problems.

13.2 Recommendations on the Design and Operation of Passenger Ships to Respond to Elderly and Disabled Persons Needs

13.2.1 IMO MSC Circ.735

The International Maritime Organisation approved a recommendation regarding the design and operation of passenger ships to respond to elderly and disabled person' needs and issued the recommendations as Circ.735. Whereas some of the recommendations (access to the terminal, and marshalling of cars) are not the concern of these Instructions, the content of the full document has been reproduced in Appendix 8 for completeness.

13.2.2 The Disabled Transport Advisory Committee (statutory advisors to the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions on transport policies affecting the mobility of disabled people) intend to provide more detailed guidance notes to support the content of the IMO recommendation. Until the guidance notes are completed, detailed information on specific transport needs of elderly and disabled people can be obtained from:-

The Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions.
Mobility Unit
Zone 1/11
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DR

telephone: 0171 271 5256
telefax: 0171 271 5253
E-mail: mu.dot@gtnet.gov.uk