



Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg
Behörde für Soziales, Familie, Gesundheit
und Verbraucherschutz BSG)



Universitätsklinikum
Hamburg-Eppendorf



**Zentralinstitut für Arbeitsmedizin
und Maritime Medizin**

Direktor: Prof. Dr. med. X. Baur

Zentralinstitut für Arbeitsmedizin und Maritime Medizin
Seewartenstr. 10, Haus 1, 20459 Hamburg

Seewartenstr. 10, Haus 1
D - 20459 Hamburg
Telefon 040-428 894-501
E-Fax 040-427948-136
Telefax 040-428894-514
xaver.baur@bsg.hamburg.de
www.uke.uni-hamburg.de/institute/arbeitsmedizin

Editor, Re: 3rd edition of International Medical Guide for Ships Hamburg 21.04.2008

Dear Sir, dear All,

we appreciate the long-awaited publication of the 3rd edition of International Medical Guide for Ships which is already in use on many ships.

In the acknowledgements it is mentioned that several individuals –including one of us (X. Baur) wrote and/or reviewed earlier draft chapters. This refers in the case of our institution to very early draft chapters, which have less in common with the final version. As we realize from personal communication, we and other experts have not been involved in the further developing and finalizing of the 3rd edition of International Medical Guide for Ships.

Thus we reviewed the 3rd edition of International Medical Guide for Ships only after it's publication and found the following areas of concern:

- inconsistencies between the requirements mentioned in the text and the medicine chest given in the chapter 33 (as one of many examples: A leg splint is described on pages 56-58 but only a malleable splint listed on page 453).

- a consecutively numbered list of medicines with recommended quantities was omitted. Charts, report forms and publications were also omitted from this list.

- a consecutively numbered list of medical equipment and instruments including quantities is given. However, the list is incomplete (example: no mortuary transfer bag or disinfectants mentioned).

In our view, additional guidance from experts in maritime health is needed to meet the specific needs of flag states, ship suppliers and shipmasters as well of providers of radio-medical advise and port health authorities in their use of the 3rd edition of International Medical Guide for Ships.

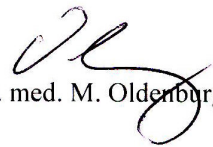
Therefore we suggest to develop and publish an Annex to the 3rd edition of International Medical Guide for Ship which will represent the experiences of experts in maritime health, which should also include latest telemedical aspects.

We are willing to coordinate such activities and do invite you to you contact us for your suggestions and your interest to cooperate with our institution in these efforts.

With best regards


Prof. Dr. med. X. Baur


Dr. med. C. Schlaich, MPH


Dr. med. M. Oldenburg



WHO Collaborating Centre
for Health of Seafarers

Öffentliche Verkehrsmittel
U- und S-Bahn: U3, S1, 52, 53
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