

中華民國衛生福利部疾病管制署

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE,
REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

Passenger Ship Drinking Water Sanitation Management and Sanitation Inspection Process Description

I. Purpose

According to Guide to Ship Sanitation (WHO 2011), Maritime Labour Convention (MLC 2006) and in compliance with the “Drinking Water Management Act” and “Drinking Water Quality Standards”, the ocean carriers are advised to implement internal audit and management of ship drinking water in order to safeguard the health of the crew and passengers.

II. Drinking Water Management

1. The management of drinking water for ships, including the management of drinking water sources (tap water) supplied by ports, the transmission management and monitoring of water supply operators in port, and the monitoring and management of marine drinking water.
2. The ocean carriers are advised to follow the regulations for ship drinking water and follow the existing hygiene management plan and internal quality control procedures to regularly check or test the sanitation of ship drinking water to ensure the sanitation and safety of drinking water.

III. Sanitation Inspection Process Description

(I) Through risk assessment, the Centers for Disease Control has from now on launched passenger water drinking water health inspections as follows:

1. Scope of Application: Passenger ships with drinking water supply system.
2. Required documents for review:
 - (1) Water Safety Plan.
 - (2) Water Quality Analysis Report.
 - (3) Water Report from Bunkered Source.
 - (4) Water System Maintenance Records.

The above-mentioned documents shall be kept for at least one year. It is recommended that the Water Quality Analysis Report includes test items such as pH, water temperature, hardness, turbidity, E. coli, total colony count, lead, copper, cadmium, iron, nickel, zinc, residual chlorine and colour. The Water Quality Analysis Report shall remain valid for a period within one year from the date of analysis.

3. If the ship is unable to provide the Water Quality Analysis Report and Water Report from Bunkered Source, or the answers regarding the “Water Safety Plan” of the ship are inconsistent with the records, the quarantine officer will conduct a simple water quality inspection on the spot to mainly test the kitchen faucet (cold water) for the items as follows: water temperature, pH and residual chlorine detection. Ship drinking water hygiene inspection flow chart is shown in the Appendix.
- (II) In the case of failure to pass the above-mentioned simple test, the ship owner shall complete all the related improvement measures and submit the ship drinking water sample to a qualified lab for testing. The test items include E. Coli and total colony count and shall submit the test report to the port quarantine authority.
1. The ship will be included in the blacklist if he/she fails to respond within the period (one month) and will be subject to on board quarantine whenever the ship enters the port next time. Repeated violations will be handled in accordance with the law.
 2. For the Taiwan region, it is recommended that the water sample be submitted to an Environmental Protection Agency-approved testing body which provides certification

of E. coli group of drinking water. For all other regions, it is recommended that the water sample be submitted to a testing body which provides microbial inspection certification.

- (III) If the quality of drinking water on the ship is abnormal, the ocean carrier or the shipmaster shall immediately improve it or implement an alternative plan to avoid affecting the health and safety of the personnel on board. In the case of potential spread of infectious diseases caused by water pollution, the person in charge of the ship shall immediately inform the relevant quarantine unit and cooperate with the onboard quarantine or inspection by the competent authority and provide relevant designated documents.

IV. Legal Basis

- (I) Paragraph 1, Article 59: the central competent authority may implement necessary disease prevention and quarantine measures; and based upon needs of disease control, request owners, managers, drivers or agents of transportation means to provide relevant documents required by the competent authorities. Violation of the aforesaid regulation shall be subject to a fine of NT\$ 10,000 to NT\$ 150,000 in accordance with Paragraph 1, Article 69 of the same law.

(II) Paragraph 1, Article 10, Regulations Governing Quarantine at Ports:

Inbound ships arriving from foreign countries shall submit Maritime Declaration of Health, Ports of Call, Ship Sanitation Certificate and other necessary information to complete port entry quarantine formalities. Quarantine authority, if necessary, may dispatch personnel to inspect the sanitary conditions of the ship.

(III) Subparagraph 4, Paragraph 1, Article 13, Regulations Governing Quarantine at Ports:

Inbound ships coming from foreign country (boundaries) with other matters requiring quarantine must accept quarantine-inspection on board.

(IV) Article 16, Regulations Governing Quarantine at Ports:

Conveyances accepting quarantine-inspection on board, shipmaster and other relevant personnel shall cooperate on the following matters and shall not obstruct, evade or refuse :

1. Upon request of the quarantine authority, prior to entering the port, implement necessary sanitary measures on personnel on board and goods;
2. By the time, place and methods designated by the quarantine authority, accept quarantine-inspection on board;
3. When quarantine authority is performing quarantine-

inspection on board, dispatch personnel to accompany the quarantine at the same time;

4. Truthfully answer questions relevant to quarantine.

(V) Paragraph 1, Article 17, Regulations Governing Quarantine at Ports:

When there is fear that conveyances may transmit communicable diseases, the ocean carrier or the shipmaster shall follow the instructions of the quarantine authority to proceed to designated quarantine site or port that has been adequately managed later and conduct necessary and adequate disinfection, de-contamination, or vector control measures.

(VI) Subparagraph 1. Paragraph 1, Article 24, Regulations Governing Quarantine at Ports:

Persons-in-charge of conveyances shall supervise their subordinates or related personnel to collaborate in implementing the following matters:

1. Keep conveyances free from sources of infection or contamination, including free from breeding of vectors and reservoirs;
2. Implement quarantine matters decided by competent authorities at various levels;
3. Other measures relevant to quarantine and disease control.

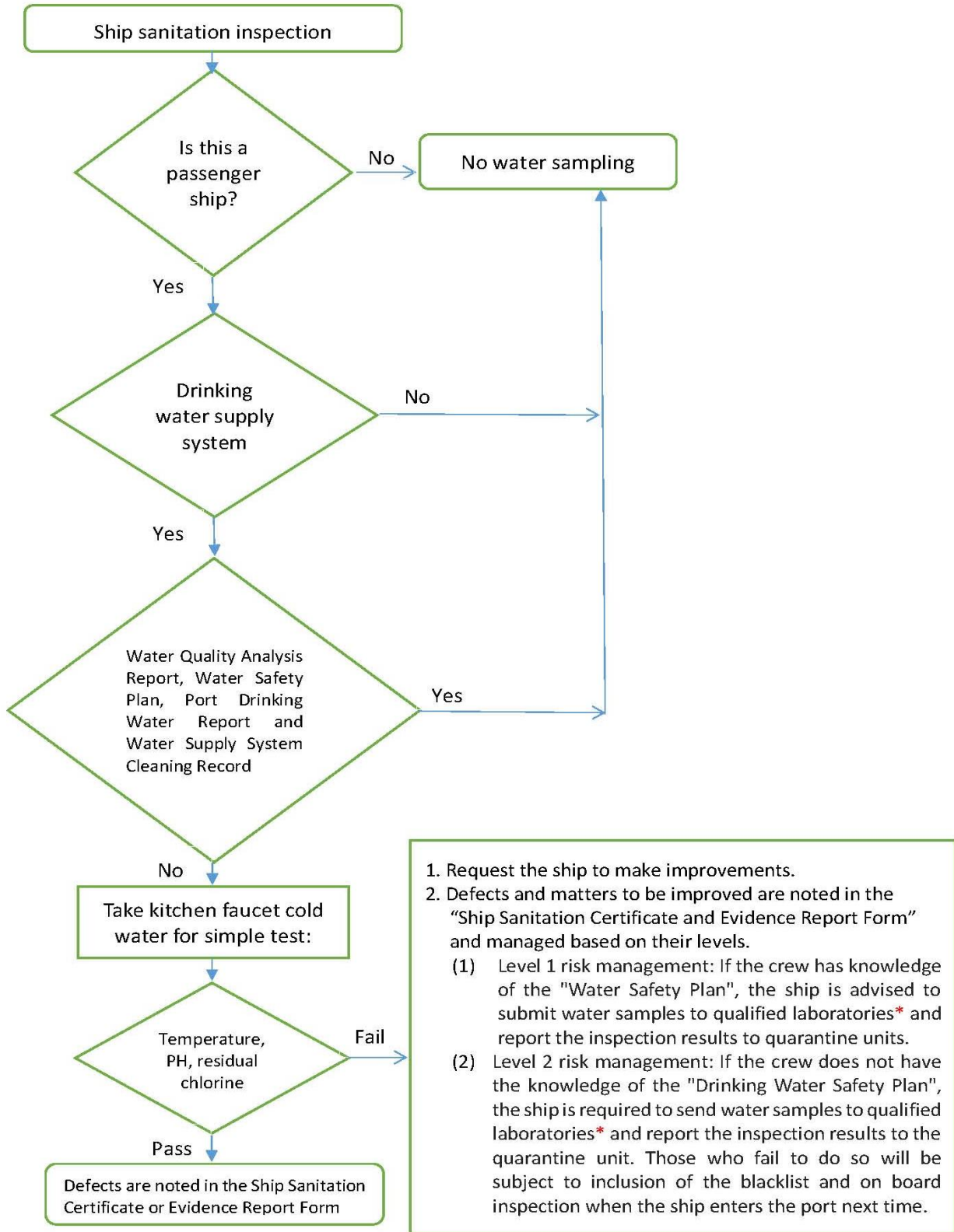
(VII) Article 28, Regulations Governing Quarantine at Ports:

Inbound ships (boundaries) from foreign countries, when Ship Sanitation Certificates are attached by regulations of Subparagraph 3, Paragraph 1 of Article 10, shall be within their valid time and the ships shall be kept clean and safe. Before the certificates in the preceding Paragraph are overdue of their validities, application to the quarantine authorities for issuance of new certificates shall be made. If, for reasons, the quarantine authorities cannot conduct inspection, they may extend the original certificates for a maximum period of one month. If the application period is overdue, and the quarantine authorities cannot conduct the inspection for some reasons, a release permission may be issued after the said ship present a statement in writing. If there are changes in either the name or the nationality registered on the Ship Sanitation Certificate, application shall be made to the quarantine authorities for changes.

(VIII) Article 31, Regulations Governing Quarantine at Ports:

When the quarantine authority is conducting inspections under Paragraph 2 of Article 28 and Paragraph 1 of Article 29, the time required for inspections and the matters the ship shall collaborate shall be decided by the quarantine authority.

Ship Sanitation Inspection Drinking Water Inspection Flow Chart



Note: "*" Qualified Lab

In Taiwan, it is recommended that water samples be approved by an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved testing bodies which can provide examination of E. coli group. If the samples cannot be tested in Taiwan for any reason, it is recommended that the sample be submitted to a testing body of the country/ region, which provides microbiological testing certification.