



DEC 02 2021

**MARINA ADVISORY NO. 2021-73**

Series of 2021

**TO : ALL OPERATORS / OWNERS OF SHIPS IN THE DOMESTIC  
TRADE, AND OTHER CONCERNED ENTITIES**

**SUBJECT : PRIORITY LOADING AND UNLOADING OF AMBULANCES AND  
OTHER MEDICAL SERVICE VEHICLES ON DOMESTIC SHIPS**

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Incident report of delays and difficulties during patient and medical supply transport involving ambulance or other medical service vehicle embarking on ships has been received by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA).

Giving priority to an ambulance engaged in emergency response has long been a statutory consideration in the transportation sector, as reflected by a provision providing them exemption from the rule on right of way in road traffic under Republic Act No. 4136 or the "Land Transportation and Traffic Code."

In the interest of service and in adherence with the State policy under Presidential Decree No. 474 or the "Maritime Industry Decree of 1974", to provide for the safe and efficient shipment of commodities and people, and to complement Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the "Universal Health Care Act", which seeks to ensure that all Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to health care services, all concerned are hereby directed to strictly comply with the following guidelines:

1. The loading/embarkation on ships of land ambulances and other medical service vehicles which are engaged in emergency response, and their unloading therefrom, shall be given priority;
2. The priority shall extend to the passengers onboard the ambulance or other medical service vehicle, including the driver, the patient, and the medical staff;
3. In case the ambulance or medical service vehicle carries patients with contagious or communicable disease, the passengers shall remain inside the vehicle during the whole duration of the voyage and to follow the health protocols / guidelines of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) / Department of Health (DOH) on the transport of patients with communicable disease;



## MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY


4. A "land ambulance" is a vehicle designed and equipped according to the guidelines of the DOH, for transporting sick or injured patients to, from, and between places of treatment by land, affording safety and comfort to the patients and avoiding aggravation of illness or injury;
5. "Other medical service vehicles" shall include patient transport vehicles, or other vehicles not equipped according to the guidelines of the DOH, but are used to transport sick or injured individuals, as endorsed or certified by a medical practitioner or used for the urgent and exclusive transport of medical equipment, medicines, vaccines, or any other medical supplies as endorsed by a hospital or medical practitioner;
6. A land ambulance or other medical service vehicle is engaged in emergency response when it is transporting or is to transport patients, medical equipment, medicines, vaccines, or other medical supplies, and as understood under this Advisory, from one port to another by loading/embarking on a ship;
7. Without compromising the safety and stability of the ship, in case the ship has reached its maximum load capacity and a land ambulance or other medical service vehicle arrives to load/embark on the ship, the chief officer or any other authorized duty officer of the ship shall offload/disembark a vehicle to give priority to the ambulance or other medical service vehicle;
8. The ship Master / ship operator shall designate a space properly marked and identified for ambulances and other medical service vehicles;
9. The ship operator shall inform/notify in advance or at the point of sale of the ticket, the vehicle owners / passengers on the possibility that their vehicles may be offloaded/disembarked to give priority for the loading of ambulances and other medical service vehicles;
10. The offloaded / disembarked vehicle and its passenger/s shall be given priority to board the next available ship of the operator which disembarked the vehicle or any available ship of other shipping operators;
11. The ticket refund/revalidation and other available remedies under the Passenger Bill of Rights embodied under MC No. 2018-07 will be applicable for the vehicles and its passenger/s which were offloaded/disembarked.



This Advisory shall take effect immediately.

Enforcement units from the MARINA, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Ports Authority / Cebu Ports Authority, and other enforcement agencies are enjoined to enforce this Advisory.

For compliance.

  
**VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)**  
*Administrator*  
Maritime Industry Authority

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