



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



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[www.port-health.org/portal](http://www.port-health.org/portal)

May-2007

To

Shipmasters  
Port users  
Interested parties

**Revised International Health Regulations (IHR) will enter into force June 15<sup>th</sup> 2007**

The purpose and scope of the IHR (2005) are to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade. The IHR (2005) also establish a single code of procedures and practices for routine public health measures at international airports and ports and some ground crossings. For further information see [www.who.int/csr/ihr](http://www.who.int/csr/ihr).

From June 15th 2007 the IHR 2005 will replace the IHR 1969. They will be legally binding on all WHO member States who have not rejected them. The international regulations are transposed to German law by the federal government.

**What are the major changes in the IHR (2005) to the  
shipping industries and ports?**

Ship Sanitation Control (Exemption) Certificate

According to the Article 39 of the IHR (2005) a *Ship Sanitation Control (exemption) Certificate* will be issued on grounds of a comprehensive inspection by the competent port health authority. The aim of the Ship sanitation Certificate is to provide internationally recognized documentation reducing the need for further inspections of the ship during the period for which the certificate is valid.

The IHR 2005 require that ships on an international voyage have either a valid

**Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate** (where no evidence of infection or contamination or vectors or signs of inadequate sanitary measures are present)

**Ship Sanitation Control Certificate** (where the port health authority is satisfied that procedures necessary to rid the ship of infection, contamination and/or vectors have been effectively carried out)

The inspection may cover the following areas of sanitation:

- vermin and pest control

- medical facilities
- food
- potable water (provide valid microbiological analysis)
- accommodation
- sanitation departments
- waste disposal system
- swimming pools (SPAS)

The Sanitary inspection and deficiencies identified by the Hamburg Port Health Authority according to IHR 2005 are based on the recommendations of the World Health Organisation on ship sanitation and health ([www.who.int](http://www.who.int)).

The certificates validity is 6 months.

The Hamburg Port Health Center will commence issuing the IHR 2005 Ship Sanitation Certificate as of June 15<sup>th</sup> 2007 in all cargo ships in which Deratting Certificates have been expired.

The Hamburg Port Health Center will however practice a phase-in period of 6 months in which

- a valid IHR 1969 Deratting Certificate will still be recognized
- a Deratting Certificate will be issued alongside Ship Sanitation Certificate at no extra fee.

#### Suspected disease on board ship – Maritime Declaration of Health

When arriving from a foreign port, the Master of a ship is required to declare if there is any suspected infectious disease or death (other than traumatic) on board amongst crew, passengers or animals prior to arrival.

To oblige to this requirement a Maritime Declaration of Health according to the IHR 2005 has to be handed over to the immigration officers in the Port of Hamburg prior to arrival. Forms according to the IHR 2005 are available from the Hamburg Port Health Authority (see below) or [www.port-health.org](http://www.port-health.org).

In case of suspected infectious illness or non-traumatic death also call Port Health Authority at 0173- 23 22871 (doctor on call 24h/7d) for further advice.

Note: In case of a medical emergency call 112 immediately.

This information is provided by the Hamburg Port Health Center, which is the competent authority to ensure health protection for passengers, crew and to the public on board of vessels and in the airport.

#### **Hamburg Port Health Center**

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