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SAFETY ALERT 01/2013
DANGEROUS MEDICAL SUPPLY

This Safety Alert is being produced for marine safety purposes only, on the basis of information available to date.

On 22nd of August 2013, m/v “Meteor” passed Suez Canal and medical supply was shipped on board, including several 100 ml bottles of Ethyl Alcohol. On 11th of October 2013 when the vessel was on Varna road, waiting for berthing in Port of Varna, the Chief engineer, the Second engineer and the Third engineer decided to organize farewell party, expecting replacement of the Second engineer on berthing. Because of the strict non-high spirits policy on board they used Ethyl Alcohol from the last medical supply. As a result the Second engineer was found dead in his cabin on 13th of October 2013 and the Chief engineer died 10 days later in Naval Hospital in Varna. The Third engineer partly recovered after a brief hospitalization in the same hospital.

Blood tests of the three affected persons analyzed in Military Hospital in Sofia proved high METHANOL content caused death of the Second and the Chief engineers and harmed the Third engineer.



METHYL ALCOHOL INSTEAD OF ETHYL ALCOHOL!!!

Notwithstanding the violation of the regulation of the company and prohibition of drinking of high spirit alcohol on board, we have a case of delivering of poisonous substance as a medicine what directly endanger the life and health of the crew.

The shipowner, ORION BULKERS GMBH & CO. KG, Hamburg, unfortunately refuse to supply us with information on the circumstances of the medical supply in question and any details of the ship agent, producer of the substance etc.

Meanwhile, all owners and masters should be on the alert of the potential hazards related to the distributors of the medical supply in Egyptian ports.

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