Any means of medical transport by air intended for the evacuation of wounded, sick or shipwrecked persons and for the transport of medical personnel or equipment.

In an international armed conflict, a medical aircraft may not be attacked but must be respected by all parties to the conflict while flying at altitudes, at times and on routes agreed upon between the parties to the conflict.

Besides the national colours it must be marked with the distinctive emblem of the red cross (or red crescent) on a white ground, on its lower, upper and lateral surfaces. It must be provided with any other markings or means of identification which may be agreed upon between the parties to the conflict.

A medical aircraft must obey any summons to alight on land or water. Flights over specified zones involved in hostilities, or over the territory of neutral States, and restrictions on the use, landing and inspection of medical aircraft are the subject of detailed regulations.

See Air warfare; Aircraft;
LEGAL SOURCE


PI, 24 [15]-31 [16]

CIHL, 29 [17]-30 [18]

DOCUMENTS

San Remo Manual (Paras. 53-54) [19]

HPCR, Manual on International Law Applicable to Air and Missile Warfare (Rules 75-87) [20]

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Suggested readings:


DOSWALD-BECK Louise, “The Protection of Medical Aircraft in International
Further reading:


Source URL: https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/medical-aircraft

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