



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

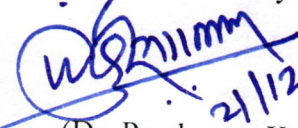
F. No. 23-66011/2/2020-CREW - DGS

Dated: 21.12.2020

DGS Circular No. 37 of 2020

Subject: Coronavirus (COVID 19) -Designating seafarers as 'key workers' providing an essential service – reg.

1. Whereas numerous forums around the world have recognized the importance of shipping in keeping the global supply chain open in order to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. And Whereas, The Government of India has promulgated an "Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1968" in which the definition of essential service means, "any railway service or any transport service for carriage of passengers or goods by land, water or air with respect to which Parliament has the powers to make law." As such shipping services are already defined as essential service in India.
3. And whereas, while Government of India has been very proactive in recognizing the role that seafarers play in world trade and global commerce and has been sympathetic to their need of change following their respective contractual tenure onboard ships.
4. And whereas, since the beginning of the COVID-19, the Government of India has recognized the seafarers as "Key Workers" and permitted crew change in the ports in India. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India vide Order No. No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 24.3.2020 under clause 7 of its guidelines has included 'sea crew' as essential services and supplies. Further, The Ministry of Home Affairs', Govt. of India vide Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 21.04.2020 by Sub-Clause (iii) under Clause 17 had included the movement of persons to allow sign-on and sign-off of Indian seafarers at Indian ports and their movement for the aforesaid purpose as per the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The SOP has also noted that Directorate General of Shipping will prescribe the detailed protocol with regard to sign-on and sign-off to be followed. Accordingly, the Directorate had issued DGS Order No. 12 of 2020 dated 22.04.2020 and Addendums 1 to 4, prescribing the Standard Operating Procedures / Protocols (SOP) for controlled crew change of Indian seafarers at Indian ports to facilitate and regulate crew change for seafarers so that the safe environment on the ship is not compromised or no contamination is brought from ship to shore. The Directorate has also permitted and facilitated sign on and sign off of foreign seafarers in Indian ports.
5. Therefore, the Directorate hereby designates all seafarers within the jurisdiction of the country as 'key workers' providing an essential service.
6. This issues with the approval of Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Govt. of India.


21/12/2020

(Dr. Pandurang K. Raut)
Deputy Director General of Shipping (Crew)

To,
All stake-holders through DGS website.