



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. 25-25011/4/2025-NT-DGS

Date: - 14/07/2025

Office Order 77 of 2025

**Subject: Constitution of a Committee for Reviewing the Merchant Shipping (Distressed and Safety Radio Communication) Rules, 1995 consequent to the modernisation of GMDSS-reg.**

I am directed to invite the reference to the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024, which was tabled before the Parliament of India on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024 with an aim to amend the law related to Merchant Shipping Distressed and Safety Radio Communications specified in Part VI of the said bill in accordance with the amended provisions of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974.

2. The Merchant Shipping (Distressed and Safety Radio Communication) Rules, 1995, were framed with the intent to enhance maritime safety and ensure effective radio communication in case of distress, urgency and safety at sea. Considering the substantial amendments in the IMO safety conventions and evolving operational practices over the past decades, a comprehensive review of these Rules has become imperative.

3. In view of the above, a Technical Committee has been constituted to examine the existing provisions of the aforesaid Rules and recommend suitable amendments in consonance with modernisation within the international conventions for the safety of life at sea & ITU Radio Regulation and adopting best practices in the maritime radio communication matters.

4. In this context, a draft rule, namely, "The Merchant Shipping (Distressed and Safety Radio Communication) Rules, 2025, is drafted and attached herewith for necessary inputs/comments/suggestions of the Technical Committee members as well as other stakeholders.

5. Following representatives are nominated by the respective organizations to constitute the Technical Committee: -

|    |   |  |             |                     |
|----|---|--|-------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Capt. A.K Azad, N.A (i/c)   | <a href="mailto:abulkalam.azad@gov.in">abulkalam.azad@gov.in</a>   | DG Shipping | Chairman            |
| 2. | Capt. Nitin Mukesh<br>(Dy. Nautical Advisor)  | <a href="mailto:n.mukesh@gov.in">n.mukesh@gov.in</a>   | DG Shipping | Member<br>Secretary |
| 3. | Shri Balunkeshor<br>Mohapatra<br>(Senior Radio Surveyor)  | <a href="mailto:mohapatra.balu@gov.in">mohapatra.balu@gov.in</a>   | DG Shipping | Co-Ordinator        |
| 4. | Capt. Avadhut Naik.<br>(GESCO)<br><br>Capt Rahul Naik<br>(GREATSHIP)<br><br>Shri Loknath Tripathi | <a href="mailto:avadhut_naik@greatship.com">avadhut_naik@greatship.com</a><br><br><a href="mailto:rahul_naik@greatshipglobal.com">rahul_naik@greatshipglobal.com</a><br><br><a href="mailto:lokanath_tripathy@greatshipglobal.com">lokanath_tripathy@greatshipglobal.com</a> | INSA        | Member              |

Page 1 of 3

9वीं मंजिल, बीटा बिल्डिंग, आई थिंक टेक्नो कैम्पस, कांजुर गाँव रोड, कांजुरमार्ग (पूर्व) मुंबई- 400042

9th Floor, BETA Building, I-Think Techno Campus, Kanjur Village Road, Kanjurmarg (E), Mumbai-400042

फोन/Tel No.: +91-22-2575 2040/1/2/3 फैक्स/Fax.: +91-22-2575 2029/35 ई-मेल/Email: dgship-dgs@nic.in वेबसाइट/Website: www.dgshipping.gov.in



|     |   |  |   |        |
|-----|---|--|---|--------|
| 5.  | Captain Rakesh Singh  | <a href="mailto:rakesh@iccsa.in">rakesh@iccsa.in</a>   | ICCSA   | Member |
| 6.  | Capt Srikanth<br>Tirukkavalluri<br>(Ex Radio Officer)<br>Anglo-Eastern<br>Kanwaljit Sharma                        | <a href="mailto:srikantht@angloeastern.com">srikantht@angloeastern.com</a><br><br><a href="mailto:kanwaljit.sharma@maersk.com">kanwaljit.sharma@maersk.com</a>   | MASSA   | Member |
| 7.  | Avinash Vaze  | <a href="mailto:avinash.vaze@irclass.org">avinash.vaze@irclass.org</a>   | IRS   | Member |
| 8.  | P Daniel  | <a href="mailto:pdaniels@ariedu.com">pdaniels@ariedu.com</a>   | ARI, Training<br>Institute                          | Member |
| 9.  | Mr. S. N Pattanaik (Dean-<br>MS)  | <a href="mailto:sn.pattanaik@sci.co.in">sn.pattanaik@sci.co.in</a>   | Shipping<br>Corporation of<br>India (SCI)           | Member |
| 10. | Farroakhi Manek Bengali   | <a href="mailto:info@procomm.in">info@procomm.in</a>   | Procomm Inc.  | Member |
| 11. | Mr. HS Chauhan (Dy.<br>Manager (Service))   | <a href="mailto:service@elcome.in">service@elcome.in</a>   | Elcome<br>Integrated<br>Systems<br>Pvt.Ltd          | Member |
| 12. | Rajendra Singh Chauhan<br>(Proprietor/ Sr. Radio<br>Surveyor)<br><br>Aniket Vijay Gaikwad<br>(Sr. Radio Surveyor) | <a href="mailto:info@ashapuramarinetech.com">info@ashapuramarinetech.com</a>   | Ashapura<br>Marinetech<br>International             | Member |
| 13. | Mr. Khusru B. Sanjana<br>(Partner – Elektronik Lab)   | <a href="mailto:khusru@elektroniklab.co.in">khusru@elektroniklab.co.in</a>   | Elektronik Lab                                      | Member |
| 14. | Ms. Sunidhi Sawhney<br><br>Ms. Shreya<br>Ramakrishnan<br><br>Mr. Rohan Malhotra                                   | <a href="mailto:sunidhi.sawhney@plrchambers.com">sunidhi.sawhney@plrchambers.com</a><br><br><a href="mailto:shreya.ramakrishnan@plrchambers.com">shreya.ramakrishnan@plrchambers.com</a><br><br><a href="mailto:rohan.malhotra@plrchambers.com">rohan.malhotra@plrchambers.com</a> | PLR Law<br>Chambers,<br>Advocates<br>and Solicitors | Member |

**6. Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Committee:**

- To review the draft version of "The Merchant Shipping (Distressed and Safety Radio Communication) Rules, 2025 and provide inputs / comments / suggestions / recommendations in comparison with the provisions of the existing 1995 Rules.
- To assess the relevance and adequacy of the Rules in the context of present international conventions and technological amendments.
- To identify gaps and proposed amendments to align with the Rules pertaining to Chapter IV of SOLAS and ITU Convention.

  
14/07/2025

d. To interact with relevant stakeholders including maritime training institutes, Recognized Organizations, ship owners, ship operators, ship masters and approved radio service stations dealing with the matter.

e. To submit comments/suggestions and recommendations on draft rules, if any by **31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**.

f. To deliberate on the inputs /suggestions / recommendations received from all the Technical Committee members and the stakeholders on the provisions under the draft Rule through a virtual/ physical meeting(s) for framing and finalization of the rule.

This is issued with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,



14/07/2025

Balunkeshor Mohapatra  
Senior Radio Surveyor-cum-ADG(Tech)