



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

नौवहन महानिदेशालय / DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING

“बिटा बिल्डिंग”, 9 वी मंजिल / “BETA BUILDING”, 9<sup>th</sup> FLOOR

आई-थिंक टेक्नो कैम्पस / I-THINK TECHNO CAMPUS

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DG Shipping Order No. 2 of 2016

Sub.: Simplified procedure for an endorsement of change of command as per section 37 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as amended, for vessels operating on the Indian coast- reg.

Every Indian flag ship, on completion of its registration formalities, is required to be issued with a certificate of registry by the Registrar of Indian Ships containing, inter-alia, the name of the Master of the vessel as per section 34 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as amended.

2 Where the Master of an Indian ship is changed (other than by way of a removal of the Master by a Marine Board/Court), as per section 37 *ibid*, the Registrar of Indian Ships/Indian Consular Officer (depending on whether the said change occurs in an Indian port or outside India, as the case may be) is required to endorse and sign on the certificate of such registry a memorandum of the said change. In the absence of such an endorsement, the Customs Commissioner at any port in India may refuse to permit the person to do any act as a Master of the Indian ship.

3 The turn-around times of ships, as well as the port stays of ships have reduced substantially, over time. Besides, the current employment practice involves employment of crew for shorter durations, leading to frequent change of Masters. This results in an increase in the frequency of the change of command endorsements, thereby imposing further compliance responsibilities on Indian flag ship-owners.

4 To simplify the process and facilitate trade, the Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Govt. of India, in exercise of the powers conferred on him under clause (1) of section 456 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 [as amended], by the Central Government, in terms of the Notification issued by the Govt. of India vide S.O. No. 3144 dated 17.12.60, hereby directs that Indian flag vessels engaged on coastal trade shall be exempt from the requirement of having the change of command of the Master of the Indian ship endorsed on the certificate of registry of the vessel as required by section 37 *supra*, subject to the compliance of the following conditions:

- 4.1 The handing-over and taking-over responsibilities of the Master shall be recorded in the official log book of the ship maintained as per the provisions of section 212 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.
- 4.2 The memorandum of change of command shall contain the signature of the incoming-master as well as the outgoing-master and the same shall be countersigned by the ship-owner or his representative.



- 4.3 The record of such entries and the memorandum of change shall be verified by the Surveyors of the Mercantile Marine Department concerned during the flag state inspection of the vessel.
- 4.4 Prescribed fee for endorsement shall be deposited to the Registrar of Indian Ship for each endorsement by the ship-owner or his representative within 72 hrs of every such change.
5. This order shall come into force with an immediate effect.
6. This is issued with the approval of the Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Govt. of India



(Capt. K.P. Jayakumar)  
Deputy Nautical Adviser to the Govt. of India