



भारतसरकार/ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पत्तन,पोतपरिवहनऔर जलमार्गमंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

नौवहनमहानिदेशालय, मुंबई

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F. No. 25-17011/41/2020-NT - DGS

Date - 24.12.2020

DGS Order 41 of 2020

Addendum 5 to DGS Order No. 04 of 2020

Sub.: Instructions to all major and minor ports for dealing with novel coronavirus(COVID-19) pandemic - reg.

1. The Directorate had issued instructions to all major and minor ports for dealing with novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic vide DGS Order No. 04 of 2020 dated 20.03.2020 (F. No. 7-NT (72)/2014).
2. A new variant of SARS- CoV 2 virus [Variant Under Investigation (VUI)-20212/01] has been reported by the Government of United Kingdom (UK) to World Health Organization (WHO). This variant is estimated by European Center for Disease Control (ECDC) to be more transmissible and affecting younger population. This variant is defined by a set of 17 changes or mutations. One of the most significant is an N501Y mutation in the spike protein that the virus uses to bind to the human ACE2 receptor. Changes in this part of the spike protein may result in the virus becoming more infectious and spreading more easily between people.
3. In the context of the new threat posed by new variant virus, the Indian Government has temporarily banned entry of international passengers from UK and new Standard Operating Procedure [SOP] for Epidemiological Surveillance and Response in the context of new variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus detected in United Kingdom have been issued by Ministry of Health and Family welfare [MoHFW].
4. The copy of SOP issued by MoHFW is available at the followings link;  
<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/SOPforSurveillanceandresponseforthentheNewSARSCov2variant.pdf>
5. Representation have been received from the stakeholders for clarification on (i) whether Para 4.2 of the DGS order 35 of 2020 dated 17.12.2020 on mandatory requirement of the RT-PCR test before disembarkation of seafarers relates to only from the vessels calling from country referred in para 13 of DGS order 04 of 2020 dated 20.03.2020 or others also; & (ii) whether RT-PCR test shall be conducted on board the vessel only or after disembarkation.

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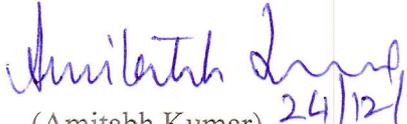
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*[Handwritten Signature]*  
24/12/2020

6. It is now clarified that the requirements of RT-PCR test in DGS order 35 of 2020 is only in respect of vessel calling from country referred in para 13 of DGS Order 04 of 2020 dated 20.03.2020. It is also clarified that RT-PCR test shall be conducted as per SOP for controlled crew change issued by the Directorate after disembarkation and not onboard the vessels.

7. The above instructions shall also be applicable for vessels calling from ports of United Kingdom [UK] within a period of 14 days.

8. All shipping companies, their agents, ports and concerned stakeholders are required to closely monitor the websites of the Ministry of Health and Family welfare, [MoHFW], Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways [MoPSW], DG Shipping and IMO and WHO for instructions to deal with new variant of the Corona Virus.

  
24/12/2020

(Amitabh Kumar)  
Director General of Shipping &  
Additional Secretary to the  
Government of India