



भारत सरकार/ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F. No. 23-71011/1/2020-CREW - DGS

Date: 13.08.2020

Addendum No. 4 to DGS Order No. 12 of 2020

Subject: Standard Operating Procedures / Protocols (SOP) for vessels at port / anchorages with confirmed COVID-19 positive seafarer on-board - reg.

1. The Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA), 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 DG (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 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.
2. Since the issue of SOP on 22.04.2020 the protocol for domestic movement has been relaxed substantially. Representations have now been received from industry to simplify the existing requirements of testing of seafarers in view of opening up of lockdown measures and ease of travel restrictions across the country and to prescribe standard process to be followed for ships and ports in case of seafarer on-board any vessel is tested positive for COVID-19.
3. 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 hereby prescribes the following additional Standard Operating Procedures / Protocols (SOP) for controlled crew change of Indian seafarers at Indian ports and anchorages within the port limits for compliance by all stakeholders:

A.COVID-19 test requirements as stipulated in section 5.2 (4) of DGS Order No 12 of 2020 dated 22.04.2020 for seafarers signing off from a vessel which is exclusively plying within Indian Coast

1. The COVID-19 test may not be carried out for a seafarer signing-off from any vessel exclusively employed and exclusively trading in Indian coastal trade in the following cases:
 - a) The seafarer must have been on board for a minimum period of 14 days;
 - b) 14 days record of the health parameters viz. temperature, pulse, blood pressure and respiratory rate of the seafarer to be duly certified by the Master shows that the seafarer is asymptomatic;

- c) There are no COVID-19 cases reported on board in the last 14 days;

- 2 -

- d) The seafarer is clearly found asymptomatic by the Port health officials at the time of disembarkation from the vessel;
- e) Seafarer travels directly to his hometown in accordance with the guidelines of the State Govt. and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Govt. of India;

2. The COVID-19 test in symptomatic cases may be carried out at the discretion of Port health officials.

B. COVID-19 test requirement stipulated in section 5.1 (9) d of DGS Order No 12 of 2020 dated 22.04.2020 for seafarers joining a vessel, which is exclusively plying within the Indian Coast

1. The seafarers joining vessels exclusively plying within the Indian coast can join at any port in India if,

- a) A joining seafarer, who has undergone a COVID-19 testing at an ICMR approved laboratory within 72 hours of the time of embarkation and has a COVID-19 negative report need not be subjected to a COVID-19 test once again at the port of embarkation provided that the travel is in complete compliance with the other requirements as stipulated in DGS Order No 12 of 2020.
- b) Seafarer shall join the vessel within 72 hours of testing COVID-19 negative;
- c) Submits the self-declaration on past 14 days travel history;
- d) Downloads Arogya Setu app and is able to be continuously monitored;
- e) Seafarer is found and declared to be asymptomatic by the port health officials and / medical examiner prior embarking the vessel. It is clarified that on meeting the criterion listed above in paragraphs a & b, the seafarer may be allowed to embark the vessel without any further test or quarantine procedures. However, precautions of social distancing may be taken onboard the vessel for 14 days to take care of any possible contact during the period of 72 hours after being tested for COVID-19 negative.
- f) In case the seafarer undergoes COVID-19 testing at the port of embarkation, no such social distancing requirements will be necessary on board the vessel;

2. Seafarer travels directly from his / her home or medical clinic towards port and joins the vessel in accordance with the guidelines of the State Govt. and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Govt. of India. *(In the unfortunate event of such a seafarer contracting the virus and it manifests while sailing, seafarers to follow the steps as in Clause C)*

C. Steps to be taken incase any of the seafarer(s) on-board a vessel, exclusively trading within Indian coast or within the limits of Indian port, tests positive for COVID-19

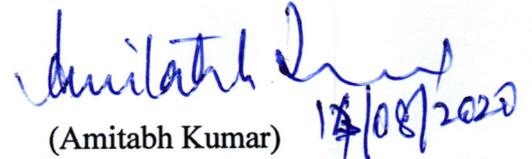
1. Unlike vessels engaged in Exim trade, Indian coastal vessels are a key component of the domestic supply chain and are often extensions of the port's infrastructure. However, the possibility of a seafarer employed on board coastal vessel testing COVID-19 positive cannot be ruled out. Therefore, it is essential to establish adequate safeguards in place in order to prevent further spread of infections while ensuring uninterrupted operations of the vessels/ports.

- a) If a seafarer on-board shows COVID-19 symptom and is tested positive, the said seafarer(s) to be immediately placed under institutional quarantine and further actions to be taken in accordance with the guidelines of the State Govt. and MoHFW, Govt. of India;

b) Vessel to be sanitized thoroughly as per existing protocols;

- 3 -

- c) Master to provide a list of all outside personnel who have had close contact with any seafarer on board in the last 14 days in order to enable port health officials and local authorities to do contact tracing;
- d) COVID-19 testing (as per ICMR guidelines) to be carried out for all the remaining seafarers on board;
- e) The vessel and its crew are to be allowed to operate normally and no outsiders will be allowed other than the medical personnel onboard;
- f) In the meantime, Master to send the daily report on the temperature, pulse, blood pressure and respiratory rate readings of the seafarers on board to the port health officials;
- g) In case any symptomatic case is reported among the remaining crew who are on-board, all seafarer on board shall be re-tested for COVID-19. If any seafarer is tested positive for COVID-19 the same procedures listed above in paragraphs a ~ f shall be followed;
- h) Vessel to be sanitized again thoroughly as per existing protocols;
- i) The positive tested seafarer(s) to be replaced by new seafarer(s) as per the minimum manning scale of Safe Manning Certificate (SMC) and the subject vessel may be allowed to continue to operate with all additional safety measures in place.
- j) In all the case where any seafarer is tested COVID-19 positive and replaced, the entire crew members will observe social distancing and vigorous monitoring of health shall be done and the Master to send the daily report on the temperature, pulse, blood pressure and respiratory rate readings of the seafarers on board to the port health officials;
- k) If it is found that repeated COVID-19 positive cases are being reported from a vessel involved in coastal trade, the matter may be brought to the notice of this Directorate and ship may be kept isolated and quarantined pending further instructions from the Directorate


(Amitabh Kumar) 18/08/2020

Director General of Shipping &
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