



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
नौवहन महानिदेशालय / DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING
"बिटा बिल्डिंग", 9 वी मंजिल / "BETA BUILDING", 9th FLOOR
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F. No. CR/CDC/Sea Service/5/16

Dated : 25.11.16

DGS Circular No. 4 of 2016

Sub : Recognition of Sea service of Seafarers employed directly

The Government of India has promulgated the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Rules, 2005, vide its Notification No. G.S.R. 182 (E) dated 18.03.05, which has since been superceded by the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Rules, 2016. The latter rules provide for a mechanism for the protection of Indian seafarers working on board Indian and foreign flag vessels and necessary safeguards for their repatriation in the event of their being stranded, or during other exigencies, when the ship owner concerned fails to discharge its/his duty of repatriating such seafarers to their home ports.

2. The Directorate General of Shipping, Govt of India has encouraged the placement of seafarers only through such recruitment and placement service[RPS] providers authorised under said Rules. However, it has been observed that seafarers continue to be recruited on board, inter-alia, either directly by foreign flag ship owners or through unauthorised RPS agencies. In order to address such issue, this office had, through its DGS Circulars No. 9 of 2007[F.No. 33(1) CR/2000/Vol.-V] dated 21.09.07 and No. 2 of 2009 [F. No. 33(1)CR/2000/Vol.-VII] dated 21.03.09, decided that such sea service undertaken through unregistered RPS entities shall not be recognised for the purpose of competency examinations and certifications. Despite the same, several seafarers continue to get employed directly or through unregistered RPS entities. Since the last two years, this office has migrated many of its official transactional

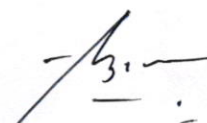
25.11.16

service delivery processes, including in relation to certificate of competency examinations and certifications on an e-Governance platform. As a result, applications of such candidates who have not been employed through authorised RPS agencies get stuck, as their sea service does not get reflected in the said system. Some of these candidates and their employer companies have since represented to this office, with a request to consider such sea service for such examinations/certifications, citing hardships faced by the candidates concerned with the prospect of them being rendered unemployed.

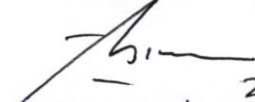
3. After due discussions and internal consultations, this office agrees to partly consider such representations from such seafarers. Accordingly, it is decided that the sea service of such seafarers who have been directly employed by ship owners of foreign flag ships can be considered for the purpose of revalidation of certificates of competency and endorsement of GMDSS certificates only for such sea service undertaken before 01.11.16. The candidates desirous of claiming sea service for the aforesaid purposes are required to submit the following documents, along with their application forms;

- 3.1. Original CDC for verification by the MMD concerned.
- 3.2. Original Passport for verification by the MMD concerned.
- 3.3. Original letter of sea service from the ship owner concerned.
- 3.4. An undertaking stating that the sea service claimed is genuine and, if found to be false, the candidate shall be liable to appropriate actions under the Merchant Shipping Act , 1958, as amended.

4. The MMDs may accept such sea service only after due verification of the said original documents. Such sea service shall be accepted only with the prior & formal approval of the jurisdictional Principal Officer of the MMDs. The latter may, in case of doubt, verify the sea service directly with the ship owners. It is reiterated that this relaxation is merely applicable for the candidates applying for revalidation of COC and endorsed of GMDSS for such sea service undertaken before 01.11.16. **This sea service shall not be counted for the purposes of COC examinations.**


25.11.16

5. This issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping and Secretary to the Govt. of India.


25.11.16
[Dr. Amol B. Kirtane]

Deputy Director General of Shipping[Crew]

To,

1. Nautical/Engineering of the DGS, Gol.
2. Principal Officers, Mercantile Marine Departments, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Kandla & Kochi.
3. Surveyors-in-Charge, Mercantile Marine Departments, Jamnagar, Goa, Mangalore, Tuticorin, Vishakhapatnam, Paradip, Haldia, Port Blair & Noida.

Copy forwarded for an information to the ;

1. Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Shipping, [Attn : Shri K. Touthang, Director [MA]Transport Bhavan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi – 110001.
2. INSA/ MASSA/ FOSMA/ IMF
3. Seafarers Union.
4. Hindi & E-governances Branches, DGS, Gol, for the Hindi translation & uploading of this Notice on the official website of the DGS, Gol, respectively.