

## **Merchant Shipping Notice No: 11/2001**

**No. 43(12)CR/99**

**Dated 21<sup>st</sup> May,2001**

**Subject :- Watch Keeping certificate for Seamen Helmsman and D/Greaser.**

1. It was brought to the notice of this Directorate by some shipping companies that the Seamen Helmsmen and D/Greasers selected by them were not able to join the vessels due to non-possession of watchkeeping certificates since they did not possess the stipulated sea service. In order to provide time for them to obtain their watchkeeping certificates, the Indian vessels plying on coasts of India, had been exempted, vide this Directorate's letter of even number dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 2000, from engaging ratings with watchkeeping duties, for a period of 9 months, w.e.f. 09/8/2000. The guidelines for issue of such certificates to ratings forming part of a Navigational/Engine Room watch, under Regulations II/4 and III/4 of STCW-95, have been issued vide Merchant Shipping Notice No.10 of 2001.

2. In the light of the foregoing development, the Director General of Shipping, having felt the need to allow more time for the ratings to be qualified as watchkeeping ratings, based on the guidelines promulgated vide M.S. Notice 10 of 2001, and being satisfied that the requirement for ratings engaged on watchkeeping duties such as seamen Helmsmen D/Greaser, to possess watchkeeping certificates for Indian ships on a coastal voyage, ought to be dispensed with, for a period of 9 months, with effect from the date of issuance of this Notice, is hereby pleased to exercise the powers conferred by clause (1) of section 456 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, on the Central Govt., read with Notification issued by Govt. of India, vide S.O. No.3144 dated 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1960, delegating the said power to him, and to exempt the of ratings, forming part of a Navigational/Engine Room Watch, from possessing a Watch-keeping Certificate, as stipulated

vide Sub Rule 20(i) and 28(i) of M.S.(STCW) Rules, 1998, for a period of 9 months, from the date of issuance of this Notice, for being engaged on board Indian ships, on coastal voyage.

3. The STCW convention stipulates that all ratings engaged in watchkeeping duties such as Seaman Helmsman/Donkey Greaser etc. are required to be in possession of Watchkeeping certificates. All Shipping Masters and Directors of Seamen Employment Office are directed to ensure that, only such ratings are engaged / selected in this category, who are in possession of valid Watch Keeping certificates, for engagement on board foreign going vessels .