

Employment on board Merchant Navy ships only through DGS approved Recruitment and Placement Service providers.

Crew Branch Circular 2 of 2007

NO: 8(6)-CR/2005

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Sub: Employment on board Merchant Navy ships only through DGS approved Recruitment and Placement Service providers.

1 As per Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, the Central Government has made rules called the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Rules, 2005 with a view to provide a mechanism of protection for Indian seafarers working on Indian and Foreign Flag vessels. These Rules provide necessary safeguards for repatriation of Indian seafarers in the event of their being stranded or during such other exigencies, when the ship owner fails to discharge the duty of repatriating the seafarers to the home port of the seaman. Further, these rules authorize the Seamen's Employment Offices, with the permission of this Directorate, to issue licence, to regulate and control the recruitment and placement services of seafarers. These rules also intend to protect Indian seafarers from the failure of these recruitment agencies in meeting their obligations and to ensure that no fees or other charges for recruitment or placement of seafarers are borne directly or indirectly or in whole or in part by the seafarers.

2 However, examination of some cases of stranded seamen and cases of casualties of Indian seamen at foreign ports, reveal that few non-registered operators have been recruiting Indian seafarers by charging huge amounts of fees and placing them on board unseaworthy ships abroad. This clearly is in violation of M.S. (RPS) Rules, 2005. In several cases, ship owners / agents have not taken responsibility for medical aid or injury, repatriation and compensation. Parents and next of kin, of seafarers declared missing or dead, are left helpless even to obtain basic information and assistance. In view of above and to discourage operation of such unregistered manning agents, this Directorate is constrained to take direct action by filing FIR with police for violating the provisions of M.S. (RPS) Rules 2005.

3 This Circular is being issued in the interest of general public and in particular for Indian seafarers and their family members to create more general awareness of the subject. All seafarers aspiring to be appointed on board a ship should necessarily log-in www.dgshipping.com. This website also provides a link to access names and complete addresses of the registered Recruitment and Placement Service providers. All the aspiring seafarers are hereby advised to confirm the details of RPS Registration of the companies / agencies before taking employment on board the merchant navy vessels through them. This will help this Directorate / the Director, Seamen's Employment Office in protecting the seafarers from failure of RPS companies/agents in meeting with their obligation and for redressal / proper investigation, if necessary, of complaints concerning the activities of such recruitment and placement service providers.

4 This issues with the approval of Director General of Shipping and ex-officio Additional Secretary to Govt. of India.

Sd/-

(Capt. Harish Khatri)

Dy. Director General of Shipping