

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
New Delhi, the 19th October, 2025

G.S.R. XX — In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 13 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 (24 of 2025), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title, Commencement, and Application

- (1) **Short Title.** - These Rules may be called the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) Rules, 2025.
- (2) **Commencement.** - They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
- (3) **Application.** - These Rules shall extend to —
- (a) all Major and Non-Major Ports in India;
 - (b) port facilities, terminals, offshore and off-lying installations within port limits; and
 - (c) any other maritime or port-related premises within the jurisdiction of the Bureau, as the Central Government may, by notification, specify.

2. Definitions

- (1) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires—
- (a) “Act” means the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 (24 of 2025);
 - (b) “Ministry” means the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India, under which the Bureau is constituted under sub-section (1) of section 13 of the Act;
 - (c) “Bureau” means the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) constituted under sub-section (1) of section 13 of the Act;

(d) “Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA)” means the authority constituted under section 7 of the Act, which exercises administrative control over the Bureau;

(e) “Designated Authority” means the authority defined in clause (16) of section 2 of the Act;

(f) “ISPS Code” means the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code adopted by the International Maritime Organization under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS 1974), as amended from time to time, and referred to in the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Act;

(g) “Port Facility” means a port facility as defined in clause (39) of section 2 of the Act, and includes any location where an interface between ship and port occurs;

(h) “Vessel” includes any ship, craft, boat, or floating structure engaged in navigation or port operations as defined in clause (70) of section 2 of the Act;

(i) “Security Plan” means a Port Facility Security Plan (PFSP) or any other plan prepared and approved under these Rules, consistent with the ISPS Code;

(j) “Security Incident” means any act, omission, or circumstance that threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or security of a vessel, port facility, or offshore installation;

(k) “Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies (MLEAs)” means the Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Customs, Coastal Police, or any other agency as may be notified by the Central Government;

(l) “Prescribed Authority” means any officer or authority authorised by the Ministry or the Director General of the Bureau to carry out such functions as may be prescribed under these Rules;

(m) “Training Facility” means any institution approved by the Bureau for imparting port and maritime security training under these Rules; and

(n) “Regulations” means detailed procedures, guidance, or directives issued by the Bureau to operationalise these Rules.

- (2) Words and expressions used but not defined herein shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act, the ISPS Code, or the *Safety Convention*.

CHAPTER II

CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE BUREAU

3. Constitution of the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)

- (1) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 13 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”), the Central Government hereby constitutes a body to be known as the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) for carrying out regulatory, oversight, and coordination functions in respect of security of port facilities and maritime installations, and coordination in respect of vessels while within port limits as may be specified by the Central Government.
- (2) The Bureau shall function under the administrative control of the Ministry, and shall be headed by the Director General of Maritime Administration (DGMA), or such other officer as may be notified by the Central Government.
- (3) The administration of the Bureau shall vest in the DGMA, who shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed under these Rules or as directed by the Central Government.
- (4) The headquarters of the Bureau shall be at such place as the Central Government may, by notification, specify, and the Central Government may establish regional or field offices for the effective discharge of the Bureau’s functions.
- (5) While performing its functions, the Bureau shall take into consideration the provisions of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code under the SOLAS Convention, 1974, as required under the proviso to Section 13(3) of the Act.

4. Composition of the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)

- (1) The Bureau shall comprise officers and personnel necessary for the effective discharge of its functions under the Act, including—
 - (a) The Director General of Maritime Administration (DGMA), who shall be the statutory head of the Bureau;
 - (b) Additional Director General (ADG-BoPS), appointed to assist the DGMA;
 - (c) Divisional Heads, of the rank of Deputy Director General or equivalent, responsible for the following functional divisions of the Bureau:
 - (i) Administrative Division;
 - (ii) Coordination, Technical & Cyber Security Division;
 - (iii) Operations, Oversight & Compliance Division;
 - (iv) Policy & Training Division;
 - (d) Officers and personnel assisting the Divisional Heads in areas including coastal security, port operations, cargo and container security, cyber security, administration, finance, and legal matters; and
 - (e) Such other officers, technical experts, and personnel as may be notified by the Central Government.
- (2) The officers and personnel of the Bureau may be appointed or engaged by the Central Government through deputation, promotion, or direct recruitment, in accordance with notifications issued under Section 13(1) of the Act.
- (3) The composition, ranks, and number of officers and personnel of the Bureau shall be prescribed and approved by the Central Government and may be modified by notification from time to time.

- (4) The Central Government may, by notification, engage specialist officers, technical experts, and other staff from recognized agencies to support the Bureau in the performance of its functions.

CHAPTER III

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE BUREAU

5. Functions of the Bureau (Regulatory and Oversight)

- (1) The Bureau of Port Security (hereinafter referred to as “the Bureau”) shall perform the regulatory and oversight functions relating to the port facilities, offshore and off-lying installations, and other maritime infrastructure, as may be specified by the Central Government, in accordance with sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 (“the Act”).

Provided that the Bureau shall not perform shipboard ISPS functions or certification activities, and shall not intervene in customs, cargo-handling, or export-import EXIM control functions governed under the ISPS and allied regulatory frameworks.

- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Bureau shall—

- (a) formulate and administer a comprehensive regulatory framework for maritime and port security, including standards, procedures, and compliance mechanisms;
- (b) ensure the timely collection, analysis, and dissemination of maritime security information, intelligence, and risk assessments to relevant authorities and agencies;
- (c) coordinate with the Central Government, State Governments, Port Authorities, law enforcement agencies, and other maritime stakeholders for the effective implementation of port and vessel security measures;
- (d) supervise, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of security provisions under these rules by Port Security Officers, Port Facility Security Officers, and other designated authorities; and

(e) perform such other functions as may be prescribed or as assigned by the Central Government, consistent with the provisions of the Act and these rules.

6. Regulatory Framework for Security of Vessels and Port Facilities

(1) The Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) shall, in accordance with Section 13(4)(a) of the Act, establish and maintain a regulatory framework for the security of vessels, port facilities, offshore and off-lying installations, and related maritime premises.

(2) The regulatory framework shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Standards, guidelines, and procedures for the security of ports and maritime facilities, and port-side interface with vessels;

(b) Categorization of ports and port facilities based on risk assessment, threat perception, and cargo/traffic volume;

(c) review and monitor port facility security plans, and coordinate with the Designated Authority on ship security plans where required

(d) Minimum standards for security equipment, personnel, and infrastructure necessary to safeguard vessels, port facilities, and offshore installations;

(e) Protocols for audits, inspections, and operational monitoring to ensure adherence to prescribed security standards; and

(f) Any other measures as may be prescribed to ensure effective implementation of port security objectives, consistent with international obligations and applicable Indian law.

7. Timely Collection and Exchange of Security-Related Information

(1) In accordance with Section 13(4)(b) of the Act, the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) shall ensure the timely collection, collation, and dissemination of security-related information pertaining to port facilities, offshore installations, and vessels within port limits for coordination purposes only.

(2) The BoPS shall, for the purpose of information collection and exchange:

- (a) Establish communication channels with central, state, and port authorities, maritime law enforcement agencies, and other designated security agencies;
- (b) Maintain databases and records of threats, incidents, and risk assessments affecting port and vessel security;
- (c) Share security intelligence and relevant information promptly with all concerned authorities to prevent, mitigate, or respond to security threats;
- (d) Ensure that information handling complies with applicable laws, including confidentiality, data protection, and operational security; and
- (e) Coordinate with intelligence agencies and maritime authorities to provide real-time updates on emerging threats and vulnerabilities.

8. Coordination and Liaison with Central, State, and Port Authorities

(1) In accordance with clauses (c) and (d) of sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act, the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) shall coordinate and maintain liaison with central and state authorities, maritime law-enforcement agencies, port authorities, port-facility officers, shipping companies, and other agencies involved in port operations for the effective implementation of maritime and port-security measures.

(2) For the purposes of coordination and liaison, the Bureau shall—

- (a) Engage with the Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA), Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Customs, Coastal Police, and such other Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies (MLEAs) as may be notified by the Central Government;
- (b) Coordinate with state maritime boards, port authorities, and port-facility security committees to ensure uniform application of security standards and procedures;

- (c) Collaborate with Port Facility Security Officers (PFSOs) for preparation, review, and implementation of Port Facility Security Plans (PFSPs) and associated procedures, in consultation with the Designated Authority under the ISPS Code;
- (d) Serve as the central point of contact for information sharing, threat reporting, and inter-agency operational coordination;
- (e) Facilitate joint audits, inspections, and security assessments of port facilities in coordination with relevant authorities;
- (f) Provide technical guidance, advisory support, and training recommendations to strengthen preparedness of port authorities and agencies; and
- (g) Perform such other coordination or liaison functions as may be assigned by the Central Government or the Designated Authority.

9. Formulation of Security Standards and Guidelines

- (1) The Bureau shall formulate, issue, and periodically update security standards, guidelines, and procedures for port facilities, terminals, and other maritime installations within its remit.
 - (a) develop standards for access control, surveillance, monitoring, screening, and patrolling of port facilities and vessels;
 - (b) issue guidance for cyber security measures, technology deployment, and emergency response protocols;
 - (c) standardize risk assessment methodologies, security drills, and audit procedures to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements; and
 - (d) ensure all standards and guidelines are aligned with national security objectives.

- (2) All security standards, guidelines, and procedures issued by the Bureau shall be publicly notified, where applicable, and communicated to all concerned authorities, without overriding the functions of the Designated Authority under the ISPS Code.

10. Security Training and Capacity Building

- (1) The Bureau shall design, implement, and oversee training programs to enhance the skills and awareness of personnel involved in port and maritime security, within the scope of its mandate.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Bureau shall—
 - (a) establish and maintain training facilities or institutions approved by the Bureau for imparting port security training;
 - (b) conduct capacity-building programs, workshops, and exercises for port authorities, security officers, and other relevant personnel;
 - (c) develop training curricula, modules, and materials that reflect national security requirements, emerging threats, and best practices in port security;
 - (d) maintain records of training, certifications, and evaluations of personnel to ensure continuous improvement; and
 - (e) provide technical guidance and advisory support to port authorities and MLEAs for enhancing operational competence.
- (3) The Bureau may collaborate with national and international agencies, educational institutions, and professional organizations to ensure that training standards are current, effective, and aligned with emerging maritime security challenges.

CHAPTER IV

OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

11. Preparation of Security Manuals, SOPs and Protocols

The Bureau shall, within its regulatory and oversight mandate, prepare, maintain, and update security manuals, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and operational protocols for port facilities, terminals, and other maritime installations within port limits and without affecting ISPS ship-side functions.

(1) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Bureau shall—

- (a) develop port-specific security manuals and SOPs covering access control, surveillance, screening, patrolling, and emergency response within its oversight remit;
- (b) issue protocols for coordination, reporting, and communication among port authorities, PFSOs, Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies (MLEAs), and other stakeholders;
- (c) establish procedures for audits, drills, and incident reporting to ensure operational readiness; and
- (d) maintain records of manuals, SOPs, and protocols for periodic review and updating.

(2) All manuals, SOPs, and protocols prepared by the Bureau shall—

- (a) be consistent with the ISPS Code and the responsibilities of the Designated Authority;
- (b) be disseminated to all concerned authorities and stakeholders for implementation; and
- (c) serve as guidance for risk mitigation, incident management, and operational security, without superseding ISPS Code functions.

(3) The Bureau may review and revise manuals, SOPs, and protocols periodically or in response to emerging threats, technological advancements, or lessons learned from audits and exercises.

12. Audit, Review and Reporting Procedures

(1) The Bureau shall establish and maintain audit and review mechanisms to monitor the implementation of port security measures at Major and Non-Major Ports, port facilities, and other maritime installations under its jurisdiction.

(a) conduct periodic audits and inspections to verify compliance with security standards, SOPs, and risk mitigation measures issued by the Bureau;

(b) review security plans, operational procedures, and incident reports submitted by port authorities, PFSOs, and other stakeholders;

(c) evaluate the effectiveness of implemented security measures and identify areas for improvement; and

(d) maintain records of audits, reviews, and recommendations for official reporting and follow-up actions.

(2) The Bureau shall establish reporting procedures to ensure timely submission of audit findings, assessments, and recommendations to

(a) the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways;

(b) the Directorate General of Maritime Administration; and

(c) other relevant authorities, as may be necessary for enhancing maritime and port security.

(3) The Bureau shall coordinate with Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies (MLEAs) and other stakeholders during audits and reviews.

(4) Audit findings, reviews, and recommendations shall be used to—

(a) inform risk assessment updates and operational improvements;

(b) guide training, capacity building, and preparedness exercises; and

(c) issue directions under Rule 13, where necessary, to address identified security gaps.

13. Security Levels and Response Mechanisms (Port Level Only)

- (1) The Bureau shall, within its jurisdiction, establish and maintain security levels and corresponding response mechanisms for Major and Non-Major Ports, port facilities, and other maritime installations under its oversight.
 - (a) define security levels based on threat perception, risk assessment, and operational preparedness;
 - (b) prescribe procedures for escalating or de-escalating security levels in response to emerging threats, intelligence inputs, or security incidents;
 - (c) coordinate with port authorities, PFSOs, and Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies (MLEAs) for implementing appropriate measures at each security level; and
 - (d) monitor the effectiveness of response measures and provide guidance for improvements.
- (2) The Bureau may conduct exercises, drills, and simulations to test preparedness, assess response capabilities, and identify areas for improvement, without overriding ISPS compliance requirements.
- (3) The Bureau shall maintain records of security levels, response actions, and lessons learned, which shall inform future audits, risk assessments, and operational directives.

CHAPTER V

DELINEATION OF JURISDICTION AND COMMITTEES

14. Delineation of Jurisdiction

- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules, nothing shall be construed to deviate from, restrict, or override the statutory functions and responsibilities of the Designated Authority, in relation to the implementation and compliance of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code under the International Convention for the Safety of

Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as preserved by the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Act.

- (2) The Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) shall exercise its regulatory, oversight, coordination, and operational functions in a manner consistent with and complementary to the statutory mandate of the DGMA, ensuring effective coordination and avoiding overlap in matters relating to the ISPS Code and other maritime-security obligations under international conventions.
- (3) Matters relating to ship security, shipboard ISPS compliance, and export-import control functions shall remain under the statutory mandate of the Designated Authority and other competent agencies. The Bureau shall support coordination at the ship-port interface within port limits without exercising regulatory control over ship-side ISPS functions.

15. Committee and Sub-committees

- (1) The Bureau may, whenever it deems necessary, constitute committees or sub-committees to advise or assist in the discharge of its regulatory, oversight, operational, or training functions.
- (2) The composition, functions, tenure, and procedures of such committees shall be specified by the Bureau in a notification in the Official Gazette.
- (3) Committees and sub-committees shall report to the Director General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) through the BoPS and provide recommendations for consideration.

CHAPTER VI MISCELLANEOUS

16. Power of the Central Government to Issue Directions

- (1) The Director General of Maritime Administration may, in consultation with the Ministry, issue such directions to the Bureau as he or she may consider necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 and these rules.
- (2) The Bureau shall comply with all directions so issued by the Director General under sub-rule (1).

17. Savings and Transitional Provisions

- (1) Nothing in these rules shall be construed to prejudice, limit, or affect the functions of
 - (a) the Ministry of Home Affairs or the Ministry of Defence in matters relating to national security and coastal defence;
 - (b) the Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, or any other Maritime Law Enforcement Agency (MLEA); or
 - (c) any Port Authority established under any other law for the time being in force.
- (2) Any security plans, protocols, or procedures in force immediately before the commencement of these rules shall continue in operation until modified, replaced, or superseded by directives issued under these rules.
- (3) Any officer, employee, or authority acting under previous arrangements shall continue to exercise their functions in accordance with existing powers until the Bureau issues directions or formalises their role under these rules.
- (4) Nothing in these rules shall invalidate any action taken, direction issued, or security measure implemented before their commencement, if such action, direction, or measure was in accordance with the law then in force.