

For comments -- all the stakeholders are requested to send an email to danieljohn-dgs@gov.in; nishant.d-dgs@gov.in & crews-dgs@nic.in on or before 19.02.2024.

Draft Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour) Amendment Rules, 2025

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 218A read with section 457 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (44 of 1958), the Central Government, having regard to the provisions of the Amendments of 2022 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 approved by the International Labour Conference 110th session, Geneva and in consultation with such organisations in India to be the most representative of the employers of seafarers, hereby makes the following rules to amend the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour) Rules, 2016, namely: -

1. Short title and Commencement. –
 - (i) These rules may be called the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour) Amendment Rules, 2025.
 - (ii) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
2. In the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour) Rules, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the principal rules), Rule 12, sub-rule (9), the following shall be substituted, namely:

“(9) Director General of shipping shall facilitate the repatriation of seafarers serving on ships which call at its ports or pass through its territorial or internal waters, and their replacement on board, including when they are deemed abandoned within the meaning of these rules. Indian Administration as a Port State, Flag State and Labour supplying state shall cooperate to ensure that seafarers engaged on a ship to replace seafarers who have been abandoned in Indian Territory, or on a ship flying Indian flag, including Indian Seafarers serving on foreign flags ships shall be accorded to their rights and entitlements under these rules.”
3. In the principal rules, in rule 12, after sub-rule (17), the following sub-rule shall be inserted, namely:

“(18) Where a seafarer has died during a ship’s voyage, the Directorate General of Shipping in whose territory the death has occurred or, where the death has occurred on the high seas, into whose territorial waters the ship next enters, shall facilitate the repatriation of the body or ashes by the shipowner, in accordance with the wishes of the seafarer or their next of kin, as appropriate.”
4. In the principal rules, in rule 16, after sub-rule (3), the following sub-rule shall be inserted, namely:

“(4) The Ship owners and Managers shall provide reasonable access to ship-to-shore telephone communications, where available, with any charge with the use of these services being reasonable in amount.”
5. In the principal rules, in rule 17, sub-rule (1) (b), the following word shall be substituted, namely:

- “1(b) the organisation and equipment of the catering department shall be such as to permit the provision to the seafarers of adequate, varied, balanced and nutritious meals prepared and served in hygienic conditions.”
6. In the principal rules, rule 17, sub- rule 8 (a) shall be substituted by the following rule namely:
“8(a) supplies of food and drinking water in relation to their quantity, nutritional value, quality and variety;”
 7. In the principal rules, in rule 18, after sub-rule (5), the following sub-rule shall be inserted, namely:
“(6) The Directorate General of Shipping shall ensure prompt disembarkation of seafarers in need of immediate medical care from ships in Indian territory and access to medical facilities ashore for the provision of the appropriate treatment.”
 8. In the principal rules, rule 20, shall be renumbered as rule 20 sub rule 1.
 9. In the principal rules, rule 20 after the above sub rule 1, the following sub-rule shall be inserted, namely:
“20 (2) The Directorate General of Shipping is responsible for ensuring that all reasonable precautions to prevent occupational accidents, injuries and diseases on board ship, including through the provision of all necessary appropriately-sized personal protective equipment and to take measures to reduce and prevent the risk of exposure to harmful levels of ambient factors and chemicals, as well as the risk of injury or disease that may arise from the use of equipment and machinery on board ships;”

“20 (3) The Directorate General of Shipping shall ensure that, all deaths of seafarers employed, engaged or working on board ships that fly its flag are adequately investigated and recorded, and reported on an annual basis to the Director-General of the International Labour Office to be published in a global register.”
 10. In the principal rules, rule 21 is renumbered as rule 21 sub rule (1).
 11. In the principal rules, rule 21, the following sub-rules shall be inserted, namely:
“21(2) The Directorate General of Shipping should, so far as is reasonably practicable, provide seafarers on board ships in their ports and at their associated anchorages with internet access, with charges, if any, being reasonable in amount.”
 12. In the principal rules, in Form 1, in point (g), the following shall be substituted, namely:
“(g) Name of the owner of the ship, or of the registered owner if different from the shipowner;”
 13. In the principal rules, in Form 2, in point (g), the following shall be substituted, namely:
“(g) Name of the owner of the ship, or of the registered owner if different from the shipowner;”