

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the _____ day of _____

G.S.R. _____ - In exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 15(8), 16, 17, 18, 19(1), 19(2), 20(1), 20(2), 20(5), 20(6), 20(8), 20(9), 20(10), 21, 23(4), 23(5), 24, 25, 26(1), 26(4), 27(3), 30(1), 31, 32(3), 42(1), 43(1), Section 44(1) and clauses (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (h), (i), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p), (q), (r), (s), (t), (w), (x), (y), (z), (za) and (zb) of Section 44(2) under Part III of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 (24 of 2025) and in supersession of the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Indian Ships) Rules, 1960, and any subsequent amendments, orders, or notices issued in relation thereto, the Central Government hereby makes the following Rules.

Chapter - I

Preliminary

1. Short title, Commencement and application – (1) These rules may be called the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Vessels) Rules, 2025.

(2) Unless expressly provided otherwise, these rules shall apply to all vessels except vessels covered under Part XIII of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.

(3) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions – (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires -

- a. “**Act**” means the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 (24 of 2025);
- b. “**Age of a vessel**” means the period calculated from the date on which the vessel was delivered by the builder to the owner, as recorded in the builder’s certificate or the safety construction certificate.
- c. “**Age Norm**” means the maximum permissible age of a vessel, as may be notified by the Director-General for registration purposes.
- d. “**Bareboat Charter-cum-demise**” means is a bareboat charter where the ownership of the vessel is intended to be transferred after a specified period to the company to which it has been chartered;
- e. “**Builder Certificate**” means a certificate issued by the shipbuilder or shipyard or the recognised organisation, specifying the details of the vessel and its year of build, at the time of delivery of a newly constructed vessel, certifying that the vessel has been completely built, fitted, and equipped in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.
- f. “**Carving and Marking Note**” means the official document issued by the Registrar after a vessel’s registration particulars are provisionally approved, instructing the owner to carve or mark the vessel’s name, official number, and port of registry on the hull in the prescribed manner, prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Registry.

- g. **“Central Register”** means the register book in physical or digital format maintained by the Director-General of Maritime Administration;
- h. **“Certificate of Registry”** means the primary certificate issued by the Registrar to, ensuring the lawful registration of the vessel under the Port of Registry.
- i. **“Competent Authority”** means the Director General of Maritime Administration appointed under sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Act for the purpose of implementing and enforcing the provisions of these rules.
- j. **“Dumb Barge”** means a non-propelled vessel, intended for carriage of goods or passengers or both, registered under these Rules.
- k. **“First registry”** means a vessel being registered under the provisions of these Rules in the register book for the first time;
- l. **“Flag State Administration”** means the government or maritime administration of the country whose flag the ship is entitled to fly, or under whose authority it is operating;
- m. **“Government Ship”** means a vessel belonging to the Central Government or State Government other than a vessel of the Indian Navy or Indian Coast Guard;
- n. **“Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI)”** means a series of nine digits which are sent in digital form over a radio frequency channel in order to uniquely identify vessel or stations;
- o. **“Register book”** means the book or register as provided under Rule 7 of these Rules which may be in a digital format and maintained by the Registrar;
- p. **“Re-registry”** means the registry of vessel which has previously been on the Indian Register, but the registry of which was closed by reason of wreck, abandonment constructive loss, sale of subsequent registry for foreign vessels or for any other reason which is deemed fit by the Registrar.
- q. **“Technical Clearance”** means an additional review and inspection of the vessels above the specific age as may be prescribed by the Director-General.

(2) Words and expressions used herein and not defined but defined in the Act shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act.

Chapter - II

Registration of Vessels

3. Registrar- The Principal Officer of the Mercantile Marine Department at the port of Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Kochi, and Kandla and the Principal Officer/surveyor-in charge at the port of Goa, Visakhapatnam, Mangalore, Paradeep, Haldia, and Jamnagar and at any other port, as the Central Government may, by notification specify, shall be the Registrar or Registrars of Indian vessels.

4. Registration of Vessels- (1) Every vessel intended to be registered as an Indian vessel under the provisions of the Act shall comply with the requirements prescribed under this Chapter.

(2) **Age of Vessel** - The age of the vessel shall conform to the age norms as may be notified by the Central Government for registration purposes. A Technical Clearance shall be mandatory for vessels exceeding the prescribed age, and a Certificate of Technical Clearance shall be issued in the format provided in **Form 1 of Schedule II** of these Rules upon successful completion of the process.

(3) **Criteria for Ownership** - A vessel shall be eligible for registration as an Indian vessel if the ownership of the entity owning such vessel is held fully or proportionately in India, provided that such ownership is not less than fifty-one percent.

(4) **Declaration of Ownership** - Every Declaration of Ownership shall be made before a Registrar, Special Executive Magistrate, Commissioner of Oaths, Indian Ambassador, or Surveyor(s). Where such declaration is made outside the port of registry, the place of attestation shall be specified therein. The declaration may be submitted either online or in person, in the format prescribed under **Form 8 of Schedule II** to these Rules, as applicable.

(5) **Name of the Vessel, Official Number, MMSI number & Call Sign** - (a) The owner or his authorized agent shall make an application to the Registrar at the intended port of registry, by electronic means, proposing the name of the vessel and requesting allotment of an official number, at least **seven days** prior to the date on which he desires to effect the registry.

(b) The owner or his authorized agent may, along with such application, also apply for allotment of an official number, MMSI number, and Call Sign for the vessel.

(c) On receipt of such application, the Registrar shall, after verification of the requisite particulars, and upon being satisfied that the proposed name is not identical with, or deceptively similar to, that of any other Indian registered vessel, issue approval for the proposed name and initiate allotment of the official number, MMSI number and Call Sign.

(6) **Marking of Vessel** – (a) Upon approval of the vessel's name and allotment of the official number by the Registrar, a Carving and Marking Note shall be issued to the owner.

(b) The said Note shall specify the particulars and locations of the markings to be made on the vessel and shall be returned to the Registrar after the carving and marking have been duly completed and certified by a surveyor, confirming compliance with the prescribed requirements under (c) of this sub-rule.

(c) Every Vessel shall, before registry, be marked permanently and conspicuously, in accordance with the particulars set out in the Carving and Marking Note, to the satisfaction of the Registrar, as follows:

(i) The name shall be marked on each of the bows, and the name and the name of the intended port of registry shall be marked on the stern, on a dark background in white or yellow letters, or on a light background in black letters, which shall be not less than ten centimeter or four inches in height and 1.3 centimeters or half an inch in breadth.

(ii) Official number and the number denoting the registered tonnage shall be cut in on the main beam.

(iii) The scale of draught marks shall be cut or welded in feet and inches and in metres and decimeters, in two columns side by side, both forward and aft, on the port and starboard sides respectively. The relative position of the two rows of markings shall be separated by a reasonable distance in order to avoid errors in reading them.

(iv) In the case of modern types of vessel having a raked soft stem and cruiser stern, the marks shall be cut in or welded as close and aft of the stem as possible, following the contour of the stem. The marks aft, or at the stern, shall be cut a short distance forward of the after perpendicular.

(d) In addition to the requirement under the sub-rule (c), markings of the IMO ship identification number is to be made in a manner that it is plainly visible and distinct, free from obstruction or interference by any other markings, and shall be painted in a contrasting colour; the height of such markings shall not be less than 200 millimetres on the exterior of the vessel and 100 millimetres in internal locations, and they shall be made by raised lettering, cutting, centre-punching, or an equivalent permanent method in accordance with SOLAS regulation XI-1/3.

For the purposes of this Rule, **Form 2 under Schedule II** of the Rules contains the prescribed form and particulars of the Carving and Marking Note to these Rules.

(7) Survey and Measurement - (a) After the Registrar has satisfied himself as to the evidence of ownership, he shall cause the vessel to be surveyed by a surveyor and the tonnage ascertained in accordance with the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Measurement) Rules, 2026. Thereafter, the surveyor shall grant a Certificate of Survey in respect of the vessel in the format as prescribed.

(b) The Registrar shall verify the carving and marking of the vessel in accordance with the particulars stated in the carving and marking note, and shall also verify the Certificate of Survey prior to proceeding with registration.

(8) Survey of vessels at ports outside India - Where it becomes necessary for a vessel to be surveyed for purposes of registration at a port outside India, the registrar may depute a surveyor or request the government of the country where the vessel is lying, to appoint a qualified surveyor to survey the Vessel for the issue of a Certificate of Survey and Carving and Marking Note.

(9) Instrument of Sale- (a) A transfer of a registered vessel or any share therein shall be effected by an instrument of sale in the appropriation **Form 3 & 4** as the case may be, under **Schedule II** of these Rules.

(b) In the case of joint ownership, all the joint owners shall join in the execution of the instrument of sale.

(c) An order of the court or tribunal directing the transfer or sale of a registered vessel or share therein may be transmitted to a person by order of the court upon the death or insolvency of any registered owner, or by any other lawful means, provided that such transmission shall not be deemed to constitute a transfer under the standard transfer provisions of the Act.

(d) Upon receipt of a court order referred to in clause (d), where the transmission results in the vessel passing to a foreign owner who does not continue the vessel under the Indian flag, the Registrar shall issue a Deletion Certificate for the vessel and record the deletion in the Register Book.

(e) The Registrar of the vessel's Port of Registry, on production of the instrument of sale accompanied by a Declaration of Ownership by the transferee together with the prescribed fee, shall make the necessary entries in the register book; an endorsement shall be issued in favour of the transferee, regarding the change in ownership shall also be made as soon as possible on the vessel's Certificate of Registry as prescribed in **Form 5 of Schedule II** of these Rules.

(f) All records of subsequent sale transactions shall be made in accordance with following provisions:

(i) For vessels transferred by sale from one Indian owner to another Indian owner, the change of ownership shall be declared before the concerned Registrar, and all document requirements along with the prescribed fees shall be complied with as provided in **Annexure I** of these Rules.

(ii) All transactions under this sub-rule shall be recorded in the register book and reported to the Director-General.

(10) Registration of Government Vessel: A Government vessel may be registered in accordance with the procedures and requirements prescribed under sub-rules (1) to (8) of this Rule, subject to the following modifications :-

(a) The application for registration shall be made by the Secretary of the Ministry or the Head of the Department to whom the management of the vessel is entrusted or by any other officer nominated in this behalf by the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be;

(b) No declaration of ownership or compliance with the age norms as stated under Rule 4 (2) shall be necessary.

(c) The transfer of a registered government vessel shall be made by an instrument of sale in the appropriate registry form omitting the covenant contained therein and shall be signed on behalf of the transferor or by a person duly authorized by the Central Government or the State Government.

(11) Registration of Bareboat-cum-demise Charter - (a) A foreign vessel chartered to an Indian on a bareboat charter-cum-demise contract may be registered as prescribed in **Form**

6 of Schedule II of these Rules and in accordance with the procedures and requirements prescribed under sub-rules (1) to (8) of this Rule and shall, in addition to the documents otherwise required under these Rules, be accompanied by the following, namely:

(i) In lieu of the instrument of sale, the charterer shall submit to the Registrar a certified copy of the charter-party agreement, which shall distinctly set forth, the name of the vessel, the name of the charterer & owner, the date of the charter-party; and the period of the charter;

(ii) A copy of certificate of registry with written confirmation from the foreign registry or competent authority of the State whose flag the vessel was previously entitled to fly, stating that the right to fly that flag has been suspended, closed, or held in abeyance for the duration of the bareboat registration in India, and that dual registration will not subsist;

(iii) A written consent or No Objection Certificate from every registered mortgagee or holder of any registered charge or encumbrance in the primary registry, acknowledging the proposed bareboat registration in India and confirming that the mortgage or charge will continue to attach to the vessel;

(iv) A transcript or certified extract of the register from the primary registry showing the ownership, encumbrances, and other relevant particulars of the vessel; and

(v) Such additional documents, declarations, or undertakings as may be specified by the Director-General from time to time.

(b) The Registrar shall verify that the suspension or non-operation of the previous registry is evidenced to the satisfaction of the Registrar so as to avoid dual flag or dual registry.

(c) On being satisfied that all requirements have been met, the Registrar shall:

(i) Enter the particulars of the vessel and the charterer in the register book;

(ii) Identify the entry as a bareboat charter-cum-demise registration, with a clear reference to the primary registry and to any existing mortgages or encumbrances in that registry; and

(iii) Issue a Certificate of Registry in favour of the charterer in the prescribed Form under Schedule II, prima facie indicating that it relates to a bareboat charter-cum-demise registration and specifying the date of expiry of such registration in accordance with Rule 4 (13) and 5(3).

(d) A vessel registered under this Rule shall, during the term of the bareboat charter-cum-demise and while so registered, be treated as an Indian vessel for the purposes of the Act and these Rules, without prejudice to the rights of the primary registry and the registered mortgagees as provided under Rule 18.

(e) An Indian Chartered foreign vessel registered under Bareboat Charter-cum-Demise contract shall fly exclusively the flag of India during the term of registration under these Rules.

(f) No transfer of ownership of the vessel shall be effected by virtue of a registration under this Rule, and no entry shall be made in the Indian register that purports to transfer legal title in derogation of the ownership recorded in the primary registry. Any sale or transfer of ownership shall be recorded in the primary registry, and the Indian register shall be amended or closed accordingly upon notification.

(12) Registration of vessels abandoned in Indian waters - A vessel abandoned in Indian waters which is subsequently acquired by an entity eligible to register a vessel in accordance with (1), may be registered or re-registered in accordance with the procedure prescribed under (2) of this Rule. A technical Clearance Certificate as prescribed in **Form 1 of Schedule II** and physical inspection by the surveyor nominated by the Registrar will be mandatory in such cases.

(13) Issue of Certificate of Registry- (a) Upon completion of the preliminaries to registry, and upon production to the Registrar of the following documents, namely:

- (i) the builder's certificate;
- (ii) the instrument of sale;
- (iii) the deletion certificate;
- (iv) Carving & Marking Note
- (v) Declaration of ownership; and
- (vi) the Certificate of survey,

the Registrar shall cause the particulars of the vessel to be entered in the register book and shall thereupon issue a Certificate of Registry in favour of the owners.

Explanation: For the purpose of this sub-rule, the Certificate of Registry has been prescribed under **Form 5 of Schedule II** of these Rules.

(14) Provisional Certificate of Registry- (a) Where, pursuant to an application for registration made before the Registrar, a vessel cannot be issued a regular Certificate of Registry due to the non-availability of the deletion certificate from its previous registry or for any other valid reason, the Registrar may issue a Provisional Certificate of Registry as prescribed in **Form 3 of Schedule II** after ensuring compliance with the procedures and requirements prescribed under (1) to (8) of this Rule.

(b) The Provisional Certificate of Registry shall have the same legal effect as a regular Certificate of Registry until the permanent Certificate of Registry is issued upon

submission of the Deletion Certificate or completion of all formalities as mentioned in (a) of this sub-rule.

(15) Temporary pass in lieu of Certificate of Registration- (a) Temporary Pass is issued in accordance with section 21 of the Act where there is a delay in the grant of the certificate of registration, and it appears to the Registrar that, for reasons to be recorded, it is desirable that permission be granted for an Indian vessel to proceed on a voyage from the port at which it has been built in India to, or between, ports in India or to its intended port of registry, or in any other appropriate circumstance, and the Central Government may thereupon authorise the Registrar to issue a temporary pass in the format prescribed in **Form 4 in Schedule II** to these Rules, which shall be valid for a period of three months.

The other circumstances in which a Temporary Pass may be granted may, inter alia, include the following:

(i) delay in completion of survey, tonnage measurement, or any other statutory certification required prior to the issue of the certificate of registration;

(ii) the need to reposition the vessel from the building yard to the intended port of registry for fitting-out, sea trials, class surveys, or loading of cargo;

(iii) delay arising from administrative or technical reasons relating to documentation or processing; and

(iv) any emergency or force majeure situation, including those involving safety of life at sea, safety of the vessel, or port operational requirements, which necessitate the movement of the vessel.

(b) Provided that such a vessel shall not be used for any commercial, trading, or carriage activity during the period of such pass. The vessel shall be required to carry a valid Protection & Indemnity (P&I) Insurance Certificate while in possession of the temporary pass.

5. Validity of the Certificate of Registry- (1) The Certificate of Registry shall remain valid for as long as the vessel continues to be entitled to registration as an Indian vessel under the provisions of the Act and the Rules made thereunder, and shall not be subject to any fixed term or period of validity.

(2) The Provisional Certificate of Registry shall remain valid for a period of six months from the date of its issue, unless it is earlier closed or superseded by the permanent Certificate of Registry. The validity of the provisional certificate may be extended by the Registrar, as deemed appropriate.

(3) The validity of certificate of registry for foreign vessels chartered by an Indian charterer on a bareboat charter-cum-demise shall be co-terminus with the duration of the charter period, subject to a maximum of 5 years including any extensions registered.

(4) In the case of vessels registered for the purpose of recycling, the validity of the Certificate of Registry shall not exceed three months from the date of issue, and shall automatically stand cancelled upon completion of the recycling process or expiry of the said period, whichever occurs first.

6. Temporary registration of vessels sought to be recycled- (1) (a) Any vessel not registered under these Rules but proposed to be recycled in India in accordance with the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019 and the rules made thereunder, may be temporarily registered under these Rules:

Provided that the provisions relating to vessel registration under Rule 4 shall not apply to temporary registration granted under this Rule.

(b) A vessel granted temporary registration for the purpose of recycling shall, from the date of such registration until its final delivery to the authorised ship recycling facility, comply with the provisions of the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019, the Recycling of Ships Rules, 2021, and any ship recycling regulations as may be notified or issued from time to time.

(2) Ownership Criteria - For the purpose of temporary registration under this Rule, the requirement of criteria of ownership, as prescribed under Rule 4(3), shall not apply. However, the applicant shall be required to establish legal and beneficial title over the vessel and demonstrate clear intent for its recycling in India through documentary evidence, including:

(a) A valid Memorandum of Agreement for Sale, Instrument of Sale, and Certificate of Possession showing own transfer of ownership to the Indian recycling facility or its authorized agent;

(b) Where the vessel continues to be under foreign ownership at the time of application, the foreign owner or his duly authorized representative shall furnish an irrevocable undertaking for Recycling in India and a Power of Attorney in favour of the Indian recycling yard or its nominated agent; and

(c) The vessel shall not be used for any commercial, trading, or carriage activity during the period of such temporary registration.

(3) The temporary registration shall be valid for a period not exceeding **three months** from the date of issue, or until the completion of the recycling process, whichever is earlier.

(4) The Registrar may grant temporary registration for the purpose of recycling subject to the following conditions :-

(a) The vessel shall possess a valid International Ready for Recycling Certificate (IRRC), or India Ready for Recycling Certificate, as provided under Form 2 of the Regulation for Recycling of Ships, Schedule, International certificate on inventory of hazardous materials issued by a Recognised Organisation or by the competent authority

of the flag State, in accordance with the provisions of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009.

(b) The applicant shall furnish evidence of a valid Ship Recycling Facility Authorisation issued under the Recycling of Ships Rules, 2021, by the competent authority of the facility where the vessel is intended to be recycled.

(c) The owner or authorised agent shall submit a declaration that the vessel shall not be used for any trading, carriage, or navigation purposes during the period of temporary registration, and that the sole purpose of such registration is to facilitate its lawful recycling within India.

(d) The vessel shall be inspected, upon arrival at the port or anchorage, by a surveyor authorised by the Director-General to verify its condition, conformity with the recycling plan, and compliance with the relevant safety and environmental regulations.

(e) The applicant shall provide a Certificate of Deletion or equivalent documentary evidence from the previous registry, or a written undertaking to produce such certificate within **thirty days** from the date of application.

(5)(a) The temporary Certificate of Registry shall clearly specify that the registration is valid solely for the purpose of vessel recycling and shall automatically stand cancelled upon the completion of the recycling process or on expiry of the validity period, whichever occurs earlier.

(b) The Registrar shall enter in the register book, in a separate section designated for recycling vessels, the particulars of such vessels, including the date of arrival, name of the recycling facility, and date of cancellation of the temporary registration.

(c) Upon completion of the recycling process, the recycling facility shall furnish a Certificate of Completion of Recycling to the Registrar, who shall record the same in the central register and close the entry accordingly.

(6) No vessel registered temporarily under this Rule shall be eligible for conversion to any other class or for extension of validity beyond the prescribed period.

7. Register Book- (1) Every Registrar shall keep a book to be called the register book which may be in a digital format and entries in that book shall be made in accordance with, the following provisions: -

(a) The property in a vessel shall be divided into one hundred shares;.

(i) Subject to the provisions of these Rules, with respect to joint owners or owners by transmission, not more than one hundred individuals or body corporate or corporations shall be entitled to be registered at the same time as owners of any one vessel;

(ii) Provided that at least fifty-one shares (representing not less than fifty-one per cent of the ownership) shall be registered in accordance with Section 15 (1) and (2) of the Act;

(iii) Provided that nothing in this Rule shall affect the beneficial interest of any number of persons represented by, or claiming under or through, any registered owner or joint owner.

(b) A person shall not be entitled to be registered as owner of a fractional part of a share in a vessel;

(c) Joint owners shall be considered as constituting one person and shall not be entitled to dispose in severally of any interest in a vessel or any share therein in respect of which they are registered;

(d) A company or a body established by or under any Central Act or State Act; or such other person or body as the Central Government may, by notification, specify in this behalf; may be registered as owner by its name in the registry.

(2) A person may on application to the Registrar and on payment of fees as provided under **Schedule I** of these Rules, inspect the register book, and may obtain a certified copy of any entry in that register book.

8. Loss of Certificate- Where the owner of a vessel loses possession of any certificate issued under these Rules, the owner shall comply with the procedure prescribed in the **Annexure V** of these Rules. Upon satisfactory compliance, the Registrar shall issue a duplicate certificate to the owner of the vessel.

9. Change of name of a company- Where a company in whose name a vessel has been registered under these Rules has changed its name subsequent to registration, the Registrar shall, on production of the certificate of incorporation relating to the new name, make a note of the change of name in the registered book in respect of each vessel owned by the company.

10. Change of address of the owner- (1) The authorized person of the owner (not below the rank of Company Secretary (or equivalent in case the owner is a company or a body established by or under any Central Act or State Act; or such other person or body as the Central Government shall inform the Registrar (also the Mortgagee's banks, if any) about the change of registered address within one month of such a change and make the application to record the same in the register book.

(2) The owner or authorized person shall obtain a No Objection Letter from the mortgagee banks, if any, as mentioned in (1).

11. Change of name of vessel- (1) Any change in the name of a vessel already on the Indian register shall not be recorded in the register book unless the proposed change has been published in both, national and the regional newspaper, where the vessel's Port of Registry is situated, and no objection is lodged with the Registrar within 7 days.

(2) Where, upon transfer of ownership, the new owner proposes to change the name of the vessel, such proposal shall not be recorded unless the conditions specified in sub-rule (1) have been duly complied with.

*Explanation: A change shall not be made in the name of an Indian vessel except through the procedure provided under checklist no. **Annexure VII** of these Rules.*

Chapter - III

Alterations & Transfer of Registration

12. Registration of alteration - (1) Every application for alteration of registration of an Indian vessel shall be made to the Registrar within **one month** of alterations, in case any such application for alteration is not submitted with the Registrar in the stipulated period, the owner shall be subject to penalty under these Rules;

(2) If the alterations consists of a change in the dimensions of the engine room or other closed-in spaces, or an addition to or removal of a poop deck house, an increase or decrease in the crew spaces or an alteration from motor screw to other propulsion means or vice-versa, the registrar shall record the alterations in the register book and also in the Certificate of Registry of the vessel;

(3) Where the alterations are voluminous and which affect the hull, the principle dimensions of a vessel or the means of propulsion, the Registrar shall proceed to register the vessel as new vessel and thereupon the rules applicable for the first registry shall be applicable.

13. Registration anew due to major alteration - (1) Where an application is made to the Registrar of a vessel's Port of Registry for **(in accordance with Rule 12)** and the alterations are voluminous or major alteration, that the vessel should be registered as a new registration, the registrar shall call for the Certificate of Registry along with the Declaration of Ownership from the registered owner;

(2) Where a vessel is registered anew, the Registrar shall cancel the original Certificate of Registry, close the existing entries relating to the vessel in the register, and make new entries in the Register Book, carrying forward encumbrances affecting the vessel. The new Registry will include reference to its earlier registry entries;

(3) The original official number, call sign, MMSI number and other identification allotted to the vessel shall be retained, as provided under these Rules.

(4) The owner may register the vessel at a Port of Registry which is different from the current one. In such a case the owner may make the application to the current Registrar who shall issue a Provisional Certificate of Registry or Temporary Pass as prescribed in **Form 4 of Schedule II** and advise the Registrar at the vessel's new Port of Registry accordingly;

(5) The current Registrar shall forward to the Registrar at the vessel's Port of Registry the Certificate of Survey, duly certified Carving and Marking Note, and the vessel's Certificate of Registry.

(6) Upon receipt of the documents referred to in sub-rule (5), including the Declaration of Ownership from the original owner, the Registrar of the vessel's Port of Registry shall nominate a surveyor to conduct a fresh survey and issue a new Certificate of Survey, following which a new Certificate of Registry shall be issued for the vessel.

(7) On issue of the new Certificate of Registry, the owner shall surrender the Provisional Certificate of Registry or the Temporary Pass, as the case may be.

14. Transfer of Port of Registry- (1) All persons interested in the vessel, as owners and mortgagees, shall apply to the Registrar of the Port of Registry to transfer the Port of Registry from one port to another port.

(2) The Registrar of the Port of Registry shall refer the application regarding the intention of such transfer to the Director-General.

(3) On receipt of the Director-General approval, the concerned Registrar shall forward an accurate transcript of the particulars of the vessel along with the names of the parties recorded in the register book to the Registrar of the intended Port of Registry. The transcript shall be processed in accordance with **Form 13**, specified under **Schedule II** of these Rules.

(4) On receipt of the transcript, the Registrar of the intended Port of Registry shall issue a new duly certified Carving and Marking Note reflecting the new Port of Registry which shall be certified by the authorised Surveyor, if the vessel is in the Indian Coast and returned to the intended Port of Registry.

(5) Once the duly certified Carving and marking Note is received, the Registrar of the intended Port of Registry shall enter the particulars furnished to him in his register book.

(6) The old Certificate of Registry shall be surrendered by the owner to the Registrar of the first registry.

(7) The procedure for alteration and the document requirements along with prescribed fees shall be complied with as provided in checklist no. **Annexure VIII** of these Rules.

15. Recording and Publication of Inactive Vessel- (1) Where a registered vessel has not undergone the prescribed periodic inspection or survey, or has remained non-operational for a continuous period of thirty-six months, the Registrar may, after due verification and service of not less than three notices to the registered owner at intervals of not less than thirty days each, record the status of such vessel as Inactive in the Register Book maintained at the port of registry.

(2) Provided that before recording such status, the Registrar shall satisfy himself, based on the surveyor's reports or operational data, that the vessel has not been engaged in any commercial, training, or auxiliary service during the said period, and that the owner has failed to regularize the vessel's survey or operational status within the prescribed time.

(3) Provided upon such determination, the Registrar shall make an entry in the Register Book indicating the date from which the vessel is declared inactive, along with the reasons and references to the notices served. The Certificate of Registry of such vessel shall be endorsed accordingly, stating that the vessel stands recorded as inactive until further compliance.

(4) The Registrar shall publish a notice of vessels declared inactive on the official website of the Director-General and in at least one newspaper of general circulation, specifying the name, official number, port of registry, and the date from which the vessel has been recorded as inactive, with a statement that such action has been taken due to non-compliance with inspection, survey, or operational reporting requirements.

(5) A vessel recorded as inactive shall not be entitled to exercise the rights or privileges of an active registered vessel, including engaging in trading, chartering, or operational activity at sea, or eligibility for benefits accorded to an active registered vessel, until the vessel is restored to active status. However, the entries relating to ownership, mortgage, and registration particulars shall continue to remain valid in the Register Book during the period of inactivity.

(6) The owner of a vessel recorded as inactive may apply for restoration to active status upon compliance with all outstanding survey, inspection, and reporting requirements, payment of prescribed fees, and submission of satisfactory evidence of seaworthiness and operational readiness.

The Registrar, upon verification and satisfaction of compliance, shall record the vessel as Active in the Register Book and endorse the Certificate of Registry accordingly.

(7) Every Registrar shall maintain a list of vessels recorded as inactive and submit a quarterly return to the Director-General detailing all vessels declared inactive, restored to active status, or remaining inactive during the reporting period.

(8) A vessel which is under hot or cold layup notation shall not be deemed inactive for the purposes of this rule.

16. Deletion of Inactive Vessel (1) Where a vessel recorded as inactive under **Rule 15** of these Rules, has been found to be scrapped, dismantled, destroyed, sunk, or transferred to a foreign flag, the Registrar shall as prescribed in **Form 7 of Schedule II**, after due verification including that any mortgages do not exist, delete the name of such vessel from the Register Book.

(2) Before effecting deletion under (1), the Registrar shall obtain documentary evidence confirming the scrapping, destruction, or foreign registration of the vessel, or any official communication from the flag administration, classification society, or competent authority establishing such status.

Provided upon confirmation, the Registrar shall record the date and grounds for deletion in the Register Book, together with the supporting reference.

(3) The Registrar shall notify the registered owner or representative of the intended deletion, and thereafter publish a notice of deletion in the Official Gazette, on the official website of the Director-General, and in at least one newspaper of general circulation, specifying the name, official number, port of registry, and date of deletion, along with the reason for such deletion.

(4) Where a vessel undergoes deletion under this rule, shall cease to be recognized as an Indian registered vessel, and all rights, privileges, and liabilities arising from such registration shall terminate, except for any subsisting mortgage or encumbrance recorded prior to deletion.

(5) The Registrar shall, prior to directing deletion of an inactive vessel, ensure that there is no subsisting mortgage or encumbrance recorded in respect of such vessel, and no deletion shall be effected until all such mortgages or encumbrances have been duly discharged to the satisfaction of the Registrar.

(6) A vessel deleted from the register due to scrapping, destruction, or total loss shall not be eligible for re-registration. A vessel deleted from the register due to transfer to a foreign flag may be re-registered only upon re-importation and fulfillment of all applicable requirements under these Rules and the provisions of the Act.

Chapter - IV

Mortgage of Vessels, Closure & Extension of Registration

17. Mortgage of vessels - (1) The instrument of mortgage in respect of an Indian vessel shall be executed in accordance with the prescribed **Form 10 of Schedule II** and may be submitted in electronic form to the Registrar of the port of registry, who shall, upon receipt thereof, record the same in the register book.

(2) When there are several mortgages on the same vessel, recorded in the register book, their respective priorities shall be indicated in the appropriate column by capital letters A, B, C, etc, in alphabetical order.

(3) Every registered mortgagee of a vessel or share who intends to recover the amount due under the mortgage by selling the mortgaged vessel or share under sub-section (1) of Section 27 of the Act, shall give an advanced notice of fifteen days relating to such sale to the Registrar of Indian vessel's Port of Registry.

(4) A registered mortgage of a vessel or share may be transferred to any person or joint owners or a company as prescribed in **Form 11 of Schedule II** of these Rules and the instrument affecting the transfer.

(5) The rights of mortgagee and ownership title of a vessel under a bareboat-cum-demise charter shall be governed exclusively by the provisions of the primary registry. No transfer of ownership shall be deemed to have occurred solely by virtue of registration. The consent or acknowledgment of the mortgagee shall be obtained in all cases to safeguard the rights and interests of the parties concerned.

(6) (a) Where an order of the court or tribunal is made for the sale of a registered vessel, any mortgage or charge registered against the vessel shall be extinguished upon completion of the judicial sale, and the vessel shall vest in the purchaser free from all encumbrances, liens, attachments, registered mortgages, and charges of the same nature, unless the court order states.

Provided that where the court or tribunal expressly directs that any existing encumbrances shall continue, such direction shall prevail.

(b) The Registrar, upon receipt of the order of judicial sale, shall delete from the register all mortgages, hypothecations, and registered charges attached to the vessel prior to the sale, and shall register the vessel in the name of the purchaser or issue a deletion certificate as required. The purchaser of the vessel through judicial sale shall acquire the vessel with a clean title, free from all prior mortgages, liens, and encumbrances, except those assumed by the purchaser with the consent of the holders.

(8) Where a registered mortgage is discharged, the Registrar shall, on the production of documents provided under checklist no. **Annexure IX - Discharge of Mortgage** and **Form 12 of Schedule II** of these rules, make an entry in the register book to the effect that the mortgage has been discharged.

18. Transmission of interest in mortgage in certain circumstances- (1) Where the interest of a mortgagee in a vessel or share is transmitted by death, insolvency, or any lawful means other than a transfer under the Act, such transmission shall be authenticated by a declaration made by the person to whom the interest has passed, stating the manner and person to whom it has been transmitted, and accompanied by the evidence required under the Act for a corresponding transmission of ownership.

(2) Provided upon receipt of the declaration and evidence, the Registrar shall amend the name of the person entitled under the transmission in the register as mortgagee of the vessel or share.

19. Closure of Registration- (1) The registration of an Indian vessel shall be closed in accordance with **Form 14 of Schedule II** the following procedure:

(a) There shall be no unsatisfied mortgage entered in its register; and

(b) There shall be no outstanding claims of the master or seafarer of the vessel in respect of wages which have been intimated.

(c) The closure of registration shall be effected upon submission of the required documents as incorporated in **Annexure X** or **Annexure XI**, and upon **Form 14**, as applicable, provided under **Schedule II** of these rules.

(d) Where a vessel ceases to be an Indian vessel, the owner shall apply for closure of its registry within thirty days of such occurrence, and the Registrar shall complete the closure within ninety days from the date of the application in accordance with **Form 14 under Schedule II** of these Rules.

(2) The registration of a vessel registered under a bareboat-cum-demise charter shall be deemed closed in the following circumstances:

(a) Upon expiry of the registration period as entered in the register book;

(b) Where the registered charterer ceases to be the charterer or ceases to be qualified to own an Indian vessel; or

(c) Where the vessel is destroyed, lost, or rendered a total constructive loss, including by demolition, fire, sinking, or shipwreck.

(3) The registration of a bareboat charter-cum-demise vessel shall be automatically ceased on the earliest, in the case of the following events:

(a) The expiry of the period of registration specified in the Certificate of Registry;

(b) The termination or expiry of the bareboat charter-cum-demise agreement;

(c) The resumption of full registration of the vessel in the primary registry for trading purposes; or

(4) The Registrar, on receipt of the application under (1), (2) and (3), shall, if satisfied, by an order, close the registration of the vessel, make an entry thereof in the register, and forward a copy of the closure report to the Director-General.

20. Extension of Bareboat Charter-cum-Demise Registration- (1) Where any Bareboat-cum-Demise charter contract by an Indian charterer, on expiry of the date of the Registration of a bareboat charter vessel may be extended in accordance with the procedure mentioned below:-

(a) Submitting an application before the expiry of the existing registration period;

(b) The application shall be accompanied by documentary evidence, to the satisfaction of the Registrar, showing:

(i) The extension of the bareboat charter-cum-demise Charter; and

(ii) The continued closure, suspension, or non-operation of the registry of the vessel in the country of its original registration for the period of the proposed extension.

(2) The Registrar, if satisfied with the evidence produced under (1) of this Rule and upon payment of the prescribed fee, may record the extension of the registration in the Certificate of Registry and the Register book; and

(3) The period of extension shall not exceed the duration of the renewed or extended charter-party and shall be subject to compliance with all conditions prescribed under Rule 4(11).

21. Transfer of Bareboat Charter-cum-Demise Charter Vessel to Indian Registry: Where a foreign vessel has operated under an Indian bareboat charter-cum-demise contract, it shall, upon completion of the charter period, be transferred to the Indian registry:-

(1) Upon production of the instrument of sale or sale deed evidencing the transfer of ownership to an eligible Indian owner.

(2) For the purpose of registration under the Indian registry, the vessel shall comply with the requirements set out in sub-rules (1) to (8) of Rule 4 of these Rules, including the submission of all prescribed documents and payment of the requisite fees.

(3) Upon completion of all requirements and verification of documents, the Registrar shall issue a permanent certificate of registry to the vessel.

Chapter - V

Fees, Penalties & Miscellaneous

21. Returns and Reports- On or before the 15th of January each year, every registrar shall submit to the Director-General, a return showing the number of vessels with their tonnages registered in the register book during previous year.

22. Forms- Every application, certificate, advertisement, declaration, return report or any other documents referred to in these rules shall, if a form therefore has been prescribed in Schedule II to these rules, be in appropriate form.

23. Fees- The fees shall be levied under these Rules at the rates and for the purpose(s) specified in Schedule I of these Rules.

24. Penalties- (1) Any person who contravenes any provision of these rules or notification made or issued thereunder or fails to comply with any provision thereof, shall be liable to a penalty which may be increased in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 320.

(2) The penalty so levied shall be payable to the Registrar of the relevant Mercantile Marine Department or, as the case may be, to the Director-General.

(3) Any change in completion particulars or any information required to be reported under these rules, if not communicated within a period of thirty days from the actual date of such change or completion, shall be treated as a contravention and shall be liable to penalty in accordance with this Rule, with the period of default for the purpose of levy of penalty being reckoned from the expiry of the said thirty-day period.

25. Entry of particulars of existing vessels.- The registration of every Indian vessel registered prior to the commencement of these rules shall continue to be valid following the notification of these rules.

26. Ensign and National Colours - Every Indian vessel shall fly the national ensign as prescribed under Section 37 of the Act, at all times while in Indian waters or on the high seas, and shall maintain the particulars as prescribed under Schedule IV.

Schedule I

Fees

| S.No. | Particulars | Fees |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | On initial Registry, re-registry, a new registry or registration on transfer of Port of Registry Processing fee | INR 50,000 |
| | Registration fee: (a) Vessel upto 3000 GRT subject to minimum of Rs. 150000/- | Rs. 1,000 Per GRT |
| | (b) Vessel from 1600 GRT to 20000 GRT- subject to maximum of Rs 150000/- | Rs. 1,000 Per GRT |
| | (c) Vessel 20000 GRT and above | 15,000 GRT+ Rs.1,000 Per GRT in excess of 20,000 GRT |
| 2. | For supply of Duplicate copy of Certificate of Registry | Rs. 10,000 |
| | Provisional Certificate of Registry | |
| 3. | For registry of mortgage | 10 paise for every 1,000/- of the value of mortgage with a minimum charge of Rs. 5,000/- |
| 4. | Release of mortgage | Rs. 10,000 |
| 5. | Transfer of Ownership | Rs. 10,000 |
| 6. | Transfer of share of mortgage | Rs. 10,000 |

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| 7. | Deletion of registry | Rs. 10,000 |
| 8. | Registry of alteration | Rs. 10,000 |
| 9. | For change of Name of a vessel | Rs. 10,000 per visit |
| 10. | For inspection of Register Book for each inspection | Rs. 10,000 |
| 11. | For inspecting Vessel's markings and certificate of survey | Rs. 10,000 per visit |
| 12. | For copies of or extracts from or searches for, documents | |
| | i. For a certified copy of the particulars entered by the Registrar in the Register Book on the registry of a ship, together with a certified statement showing the ownership of the Vessel at that time | Rs. 10,000 |
| | ii. For a certified copy of any declaration document a copy of which is made evidence by the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 | Rs. 10,000 |
| | iii. For a certified copy of, or extracts from document declared by the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, to be admissible in evidence Declaration of Ownership Instrument of Sale Instrument of Mortgage Certificate of Registry (initial issue) Provisional Certificate of Registry. | Rs. 10,000 per copy |
| 13. | Registration of a domain name for a vessel | Rs. 1,00,000 |
| 14. | For issue of temporary pass or provisional certificate of Indian registry and for expansion of the period of temporary pass | Rs. 10,000 |

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| 15. | For allotment of name, call sign, MMSI number (Validity of Two years) | Rs. 20,000 |
| 16. | Renewal of Name, Call Sign, MMSI & Official number (subsequent validity one year) | Rs. 10,000 |

SCHEDULE- II**(Read with Rules)**

| S. No. | Forms | Registry Form No. |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Technical Clearance Certificate | 1 (Rule 4(2)) |
| 2. | Carving and Marking Note | 2 (Rule 4(6)) |
| 3. | Provisional Certificate of Registry | 3 (Rule 4(14)(a)) |
| 4. | Temporary Pass in lieu of Certificate of Registration | 4 (Rule 4(15)) |
| 5. | Certificate of Registry | 5 (Rule 4(13)) |
| 6. | Bareboat-Charter- cum- Demise Registration | 6 (Rule 4(11)) |
| 7. | Deletion Certificate of Registry | 7 (Rule 16) |
| 8. | Declaration of ownership by individuals | 8 (Rule 4(4)) |
| 9. | Declaration of ownership by joint owners | 8 (Rule 4(4)) |

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|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10. | Declaration of ownership on behalf of a company | 8 (Rule 4(4)) |
| 11. | Declaration of ownership or interest on transmission by death or registered owner or mortgagee | 8 (Rule 4(4)) |
| 12. | Declaration of ownership or interest on transmission by insolvency of registered owner or mortgagee | 8 (Rule 4(4)) |
| 13. | Instrument of sale (individuals or joint owners) | 9 (Rule 4(9)) |
| 14. | Instrument of sale (company) | 9 (Rule 4(9)) |
| 15. | Certificate of Mortgage | 10 (Rule 17(1)) |
| 16. | Transfer of Mortgage | 11 (Rule 17(5)) |
| 17. | Discharge of Mortgage (Transactions subsequent to Registry) | 12 (Rule 17(8)) |
| 18. | Transcript of Register | 13 (Rule 14(3)) |
| 19. | Closure of Registry | 14 (Rule 19(1)) |

SCHEDULE- III

(Checklists)

| S. No. | Checklist | Annexure No. |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Registration of Vessel - Second hand acquisition abroad - Provisional COR | I |
| 2. | Registration of Vessel- Second hand acquisition in India - Temporary Pass | |
| 3. | Registration of New Build Vessel in India or Abroad - COR Permanent | |
| 4. | Registration of Dumb Barges | II |
| 5. | Transfer of vessels, shares | III |
| 6. | Transmission of vessels, shares, etc. | IV |
| 7. | Loss of Certificates | V |
| 8. | Change of Registered address of owner | VI |
| 9. | Change of name of vessel | VII |
| 10. | Transfer of Port of Registry | VIII |
| 11. | Discharge of Mortgage | IX |
| 12. | Sale of Indian Vessels- Closure of Registry | X |
| 13. | Total Loss of Indian Merchant Vessel & Closure of Registry | XI |
| 14. | Sale of Dumb Barge to Another Indian Owner For Further Plying | XII |
| 15. | Sale Of Dumb Barge For Further Plying Or Scrapping - Closure Of Registry | XIII |

SCHEDULE- IV

(Ensign and National Colours)