



भारत सरकार/ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F. No. 7-NT(72)/2014

Date: 16.03.2020

DGS Order No. 02 of 2020

Subject: Instructions on dealing with novel coronavirus (COVID-19) - reg.

1. The Directorate has issued maritime advisory on new coronavirus vide M.S. Notice 02 of 2020 on 28.01.2020, M.S. Notice 03 of 2020 dated 04.02.2020 & M.S. Notice 06 of 2020 dated 03.03.2020 (F. No. 7-NT(72)/2014).
2. The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases have been confirmed in large number of countries due to which the World Health Organisation (WHO) has characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic.
3. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has issued circular letter No.4204 / Add.3 dated 02.03.2020 providing operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases / outbreak on board ships prepared by WHO and is available at the following below link:
<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Documents/Circular%20Letter%20No.4204-Add.3.pdf>
4. Considering the gravity of the situation and considering that isolation is the most important way to prevent the spread of the virus, all stakeholders listed below are required to comply with the following:

A. Shipping Companies & Ships

5.1 All Indian ships are advised to develop a disease outbreak management plan for dealing with outbreak taking into consideration the interim guidance issued by WHO. While developing the plan, vessels may consider using the hospitals onboard the ships for isolating suspected cases until they are disembarked and transferred to a healthcare facility. Also, adequate protocols need to be developed for managing suspected cases on the vessel including clinical management, cleaning and disinfections of possible contaminated areas etc.

5.2 The plan may also need to include provisions regarding pre-boarding procedures, screening procedures, educating crew on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of the disease, reporting procedures etc. In addition, garbage required to be landed ashore from vessels may need to be properly disinfected to ensure that there is no possibility of transmission of the COVID-19 disease from the landed garbage.

B. Recruitment & Placement Service (RPS) providers

6.1 All Recruitment & Placement Service (RPS) providers are required to ensure that the requirement of physical presence of seafarers in their offices for the purpose of seafarers' 'sign-on' and 'sign off' from ships are kept to the minimum.

6.2 All RPS providers may consider using online means like video conferencing etc., for briefing and de-briefing purpose to the extent possible.

C. Maritime Training Institutes (MTI's)

7.1 All the basic courses, modular courses including simulator courses and competency / preparatory courses stand suspended from 16.03.2020 till further orders. No MTI shall conduct these courses till formally notified by this Directorate. The remaining portion of any training shall be resumed after normalcy and subsequent DGS Orders. Meanwhile, the candidates may access e-learning platform on the DGS website to go through the 23 STCW modular courses as mentioned in the Annexure to DGS Training Circular No. 01 of 2020 dated 07.02.2020. The period of suspension shall be treated as holidays for the purpose of calculation of attendance of the candidates.

7.2 All MTIs conducting the residential pre-sea courses may continue conducting only the pre-sea course. However, the MTIs are requested to follow the guidelines given below.

7.2.1 As far as practical avoid travelling, gathering and restrict people coming from outside into the campus. Faculty, should preferably stay in the campus or travel in private vehicles. They should also sanitize themselves before entry the campus.

7.2.2 Practical training and group work / exercises shall not be conducted. Swimming pool and gymnasium should not be used. The entire premises including the hostel block, mess room, library, academic block etc. to be frequently sanitized.

7.2.3 MTI's shall ensure that sufficient sanitizers are maintained at the premises at all times and shall also make such sanitization equipment available at all locations which are commonly used.

7.2.4 MTI's shall make arrangements for regular medical checks of all residents and maintain such records. Any individual found with fever and / or dry cough and / or difficulty in breathing may strictly be quarantined and given necessary medical care.

7.2.5 As far as possible, MTI's shall endeavour to avoid assembly of students outside the classrooms and ensure that they maintain safe distance from each other as per the MoHFW advisories.

D. Seafarers

8.1 All seafarers need to avoid availing shore leave in infected regions and consider the risks involved before desiring to go ashore in other regions. Availing shore leave during the pandemic may need to be avoided and used only in exigencies with necessary precautions.

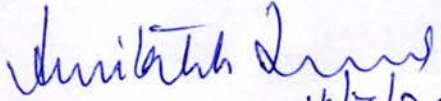
8.2 Seafarers who have travelled abroad to infected regions are advised to self-quarantine immediately on arrival in India for at least a period of 14 days.

E. Competency Examinations

9.1 All written competency examinations stands deferred with effect from 24.03.2020. Resumption of the competency examinations will be intimated by subsequent orders. All candidates are required to monitor DGS website for instructions regarding resumption of the competency examinations.

9.2 Oral examinations will however continue to be conducted as per schedule. However, the oral examination is subject to the candidate having no travel history of foreign travel for a period of 14 days prior to the orals and not displaying any fever and / or dry cough and / or difficulty in breathing. Also, Orders of the local Government with respect to congregation of persons etc. need to be followed.

10. All stakeholders including Indian shipping companies, Recruitment and Placement Service providers, MTI's, seafarers are required to comply with the instructions of the Government. All stakeholders are also once again advised to continue to closely monitor the WHO, MoHFW, IMO, Ministry of Shipping & DG Shipping websites on regular basis and be guided with the updated guidelines issued from time to time.


Amitabh Kumar 16/3/2020
Director General of Shipping