



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F. No. 23-71011/1/2020-CREW-DGS

Date: 21.11.2020

DGS Order No. 39 of 2020

Subject: Standard Operating Procedure / Protocol (SOP) for Sign-On of foreign seafarers in Indian ports – req.

1. The corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic has created an unprecedented global crisis which has impacted all aspects of life and badly affected the work environment. In the maritime sector, it has severely impacted the ship to shore interactions, including crew changes.
2. The Ministry of Home Affairs' have vide their Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 21.04.2020 included sub-Clause (iii) under Clause 17 on movement of persons to allow sign-on and sign-off of Indian seafarers at Indian ports and their movement for the aforesaid purpose as per the attached Standard Operating Protocol (SoP). The said SoP also authorized DG (Shipping) to frame detailed protocol with regard to sign-on and sign-off of seafarers.
3. Accordingly, the Directorate had issued DGS Order No. 12 of 2020 dated 22.04.2020 prescribing the Standard Operating Procedures / Protocols (SOP) for controlled crew change of Indian seafarers at Indian ports to facilitate and regulate crew change for seafarers so that the safe environment on the ship is not compromised or no contamination is brought from ship to shore.
4. The Directorate had also issued DGS Order No. 14 of 2020 dated 07.06.2020 prescribing Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for repatriation of foreign seafarers from Alang Port, Gujarat and DGS Order No. 21 of 2020 dated 20.07.2020 for repatriation of foreign seafarers from Indian ports.

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5. Several representations have since been received from international organizations like IMO, ILO, ICAO, ICS, ITEF etc. to allow crew change at all ports and airports to maintain uninterrupted supply chain and to avoid humanitarian crisis at sea.

6. It is now decided that along with the sign-off of foreign crew, sign-on of foreign crew shall also be facilitated at Indian ports. The Standard Operating Procedure / Protocol (SOP) for Sign-On of Indian seafarers issued vide DGS Order No. 12 of 2020 dated 22.04.2020 shall be applicable for Sign-On of foreign seafarers also.

  
(Amitabh Kumar) 21/11/2020

Director General of Shipping &  
Additional Secretary to the Govt. of India