



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

नौवहन महानिदेशालय / DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING

टेलीफोन: 91-22-25752040/1/2/3 "बिटा बिल्डिंग", 9 वी मंजिल / "BETA BUILDING", 9<sup>th</sup> FLOOR Tele: 91-22-25752040/1/2/3  
फैक्स: 022-25752029/35 आय-थिंक टेक्नो कॅम्पस / I-THINK TECHNO CAMPUS Fax:022-25752029/35  
ई-मेल: dgship-dgs@nic.in कांजुर मार्ग (ईस्ट) / KANJUR MARG(EAST) E-mail: dgship-dgs@nic.in  
वेब: www.dgshipping.gov.in मुंबई - 400 042 / MUMBAI - 400 042 Web: www.dgshipping.gov.in

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MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE No. 7 of 2017

Sub: Launching of E-Migrate system for seafarers.

In the recent past a number of cases have received in the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) about the difficulties faced by Indian seafarers who are recruited and placed on board foreign flag ships by unlicensed Recruitment & Placement Service (RPS). An advisory was issued in the newspaper highlighting the importance of recruitment only through DGS licensed/registered RPS entities the updated list of which is available on the DGS website. The DGS has also sent individual e-mails to all Indian seafarers registered in its e-Governance system, advising them not to accept maritime recruitment and placement through non DGS registered entities. The DGS approved Maritime Training Institutes have been requested to display the said e-mails of the DGS on their notice board/website for the benefit of their students.

2. In spite of the said initiatives, it has been reported that many Indians seafarers continue to get recruited and placed through unregistered/unrecognized entities. The DGS, Gol has recently received several representations from various quarters requesting to put in place institutional measures for preventing such unlicensed entities from operating.

3. It is relevant to mention that in the recently notified Merchant Shipping (Recruitment & Placement of Seafarers) Rules 2016, it has been stipulated in Rule 4, "that no person shall, directly or indirectly, carry on the business in India of recruitment and placement of any seafarer on behalf of an employer or ship-owner of Indian or foreign ship, unless it is registered and licensed under these rules." However, there is no provision for



penalty/prosecution against the unlicensed RPS in the extent Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as amended. Therefore DGS, GOI is not in a position to initiate action against the unregistered RPS.

4. The provision for penalty and prosecution has been proposed by this office in the draft Merchant Shipping Bill, 2016. Till such time the latter comes into force as amendment, other alternative measures are being considered to be instituted for preventing such unlicensed RPS entities from operating.

5. One of the measures considered the prevention of such seafarers from leaving Indian ports/airports unless they are recruited through registered RPSs. In this regard the modalities were discussed with the protector of Emigrants (MEA) for implementing the e-migrate system for the Indian seafarers and an e-migrate software for immigration of Indian seafarers has been developed. In this e-Migrate system the data of Indian national seafarers engaged through following three channels shall be accepted:

- (i) By the Indian flag ship owners for Indian flag ship;
- (ii) By the Recruitment and Placement Service registered with DGS, GoI, for Foreign flag Ships and Indian Flag Ships;
- (iii) Directly by some foreign ships owner on their foreign flag ship (for senior officers Master & Chief Engineer only).

6. In case of employment of seafarers falling under (i) & (ii) of para 5 above, the data of their engagement/employment shall be entered by the concerned ship owner or their authorized RPS registered with DGS. They can access the said e-Migrate system using the same user id and password already available with them.

7. With respect to seafarers falling under (iii) of para 5 above, such seafarers can enter their details directly into the system using the user ID and password allotted to them.

8. In the said system, the RPS or the Indian flag ship owner or the senior officer (Master or Chief Engineer) as the case may be, logs in to the DGS website. They would be directed to a link page of the e-migrate system wherein it fills the data of the seafarer. Such data should be filled online in the prescribed format, before the expected date of departure of the seafarer. The data then will be transmitted online by the e-migrate system to the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) in batch mode of the interval of 3 hours along-with the usual Emigration Clearance (EC) data batch. When such seafarer, whose data is entered into the said system,

reports at the immigration check point and swipes his passport, then his data flashes on the immigration desk and he may be allowed to pass through. The seafarers using this route shall be allowed by immigration.

9. The seafarers engaged through non-registered RPS shall not be allowed to leave the country.

10. Thus with the above system in place, only the seafarers recruited by Indian flag ship owners, authorized RPS and senior officers (Master or Chief Engineer) recruited directly by foreign ship-owner would be allowed to pass through the immigration check points.

11. Additionally, the registration details of seafarers in the said e-migrate system can be checked by anyone from e-migrate website or through e-Migrate SMS service by sending EMIG PP <passport No.> to 9250000998 through SMS.

12. The integration of DG Shipping portal & e-Migrate portal along-with the Bol system is proposed to be run on a pilot basis for verification of seafarers' details at Immigration Check Points (ICPs) for 3 months with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2017. (This is to enable addressing any technical problems, which may be encountered by the DGS/MEA/Bol team).

13. The seafarers who are recruited by unauthorised RPS and seafarers (other than senior officers) recruited directly by foreign ship owners shall be prevented from passing through the immigration check points.

14. This issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping & Special Secretary to Gol.



(Subhash Barguzer)  
Deputy Director General of Shipping (Crew)