



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F.No. CR-21(1)/2010

Dated:14.02.2020

Merchant Shipping Notice No 05 of 2020

Subject: E-Migrate system for seafarers – reg.

Directorate General of Shipping had vide its Merchant Shipping Notice No. 7 of 2017(F. NO. CR/GRW/12/15-I dated 11.08.2017) launched e-Migrate system for seafarers keeping in view the difficulties faced by Indian seafarers who are recruited and placed onboard foreign flag vessels by unlicensed Recruitment & Placement Service (RPS). The Directorate has also time and again after launch of said e-Migrate system taken review/orientation sessions with the Indian ship owners/RPSLs to address any difficulty for uploading the data of seafarers in the e-Migrate system, for smooth functioning of the said e-Migrate system.

2. It is noted that seafarers, supernumeraries (spouse/children of seafarer), non-seafarers (such as ship surveyors, auditors, doctors, superintendents), seafarers working on harbor ships, Inland waterways ships and crafts, placed on board ship are still facing problems as they are being asked by the immigration authorities to produce STCW certificate or the CDC or the print out of the e-Migrate Form 1 etc. for their departure clearance.
3. In this connection the issues are clarified as under to mitigate such problems:
 - 3.1. **Seafarers:** Indian seafarers who are recruited & placed on merchant vessels of any flag are required to go through e-migrate system only. Indian seafarers who work on cruise vessels still do not possess Indian CDC, because CDC is not a mandatory document for e-migrate and it is the passport which is the

Page 1 of 4

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identification document for them. In the e-migrate system, a seafarer is not required to show any document in the hard form such as CDC/CoC/STCW course certificates or printout of Form 1 of e-Migrate system, as there is proven misuse through Photoshop by unscrupulous elements..

- 3.2. **Supernumeraries (spouse/children of seafarers):** The supernumeraries who are joining ship are not required to go through e-migrate system. They are not required to possess certificates such as CDC/CoC/STCW certificates etc.
- 3.3. **Non-seafarers:** Directorate General of Shipping has defined and classified non-seafarers and facilitated them into the e-Migrate system through the M.S. Notice No. 2 of 2018 dated 16.01.2018. These persons may not be having CDC/CoC/STCW course certificate and are out of the purview of Maritime Labour Convention and seafarers' employment agreement. In the said e-Migrate system, the identification documents for these persons is their passport. As such, other documents like CDC/CoC/STCW course certificates or printout of Form 1 of e-Migrate system is not required.
4. **Other persons:** persons working on the following types of ships/crafts, in different capacities in Indian waters are also facing difficulty at the immigration checkpoints for their departure clearance as they are being asked to come through e-Migrate system: -
- i) oil platforms/rigs
 - ii) harbor ships/crafts plying in harbor limit
 - iii) sailing vessels or fishing vessels
 - iv) Inland vessels registered by state Governments
 - v) pilot vessels
 - vi) light house/navaid tenders
 - vii) defense department vessels
 - viii) trawlers
 - ix) yachts

The person working on above types of vessels are not required to sign Articles of Agreement or hold CDC/CoC/STCW certificates. Hence, these



persons are outside of purview of Maritime Labour Convention and they are not required to go through the e-Migrate system which is mandatory for seafarers working on Merchant ships.

5. Further, it is also reported that before passing through the immigration departure clearance, the seafarers are also asked by the Airlines to show the printouts of the e-Migrate system. Such instances are reported at the time when the airlines checked in the baggage of the seafarer at the check-in counter of the airlines and seafarer whose data is not found in the e-migrate system is disallowed by Immigration Department. The exercise to off load the baggage from the aircraft by the airlines lead to delay the flight and hardship to the fellow passenger. The RPS/Indian ship-owners should ensure that the data of seafarer concerned is submitted and reflects in the e-migrate system well before the date and time of departure. The Airlines however should be guided that they should not insist printout of the e-migrate of the seafarer as there is a possibility of misuse by unscrupulous elements through Photoshop. Airlines may be guided suitably by the DGCA, Gol.
6. Shipping Agents are facilitating Indian seafarers to sign on board Indian and foreign flag vessels from Minor Indian Seaports where there is no resource to verify the e-migrate status. Seafarers who signed on without registering in the e-migrate portal are intercepted at subsequent Indian Ports while in transit by the Immigration authorities of that Port. Ministry of Home Affairs, Gol or the State Administration, as the case may be, may ensure that the required resources are in place at all such Minor ports to verify e-migrate status of Indian seafarers. Since, as per e-migrate system every Indian seafarer leaving Indian Seaport/Airports for joining ship requires to go through e-migrate system, any seafarer, except those exempted as per these guidelines, who attempts to join or joined ship without e-migrate should not be allowed to join/continue on ship.
7. The OEM technician or Observer, if happened to be a foreign national, are out of the purview of e-migrate system. As such, joining on ship of these foreign national OEM technician or observer will be as per usual channel of their



placement by the ship-owner and are not required to go through e-migrate system.

8. Bureau of Immigration (BoI) may issue suitable instructions/clarification to all the immigration authorities at immigration check points at seaports & airports in India in accordance with these guidelines.
9. This issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

(SubhashBarguzer)

Deputy Director General of Shipping(Crew)

Copy to:

1. All stakeholders through DGS website
2. Commissioner, Bureau of Immigration
3. Chief Secretary, Gujarat/Maharashtra/Goa/Karnataka/Kerala/Tamilnadu/Andhra Pradesh/Orisa/West Bengal and UT of A&N/Lakshdweep
4. Protector General of Emigrants
5. DGCA
6. All FRROs
7. Computer Cel. DGS for placing this notice in DGS website.
8. Assistant Director (OL) for Hindi translation