



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS



भारत 2023 INDIA  
वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्  
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नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F. No. 23-68011/34/2020-CREW - DGS

Date: 04.05.2023

DGS Order No. 07 of 2023

**Subject: -- Mandatory possession of Bio-metric Seafarers Identity Documents (BSID) for seafarers that are intend to visit Ports in Brazil and in other countries – Reg.**

Whereas, the Convention No. 185 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on Seafarer's Identity Cards (SID) lays down the specifications for an internationally uniform document. The said SID convention has since been ratified by India.

2. Whereas, an amendment to the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 was carried out by inserting section 99 A, through the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 2007 (40 of 2007) dated 24.09.2007. The Merchant Shipping (Seafarers Bio-metric Identity Document) Rules, 2016 have been formulated with due deliberations with the stakeholders and stands notified on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

3. Whereas, for the issuance of BSID, 09 Data Collection Centers were developed.

4. Whereas, the Directorate was in receipt of a representations from stakeholders intimating that the authorities at the Brazilian Immigration Authority have stopped recognizing Indian Seamen Book (CDC) issued under ILO Regulation 108, for crew joining or signing off the vessel w.e.f. 19.11.2020. They are only allowing seafarers to enter or leave who are holding Bio-metric Seamen Identification Document (BSID) ratified as per ILO 185 Regulation.

5. Accordingly, the Directorate took up the matter with Brazilian Authorities through Indian Mission with a request to provide extension in the matter. The Brazilian Authorities considered the request of the Directorate and had given extension in the matter till 30.04.2023.

6. Since the extension so provided by the Brazilian Authorities have ended now, all the stakeholders are requested to ensure the following:

- i. The seafarers who are being recruited on board a vessel that may visit any Port in Brazil must be in possession of Bio-metric Seafarers Identity Documents (BSID).
- ii. Necessary provision of repatriation may be made for seafarers who are already engaged on board vessels that may visit Ports in Brazil and who are not in possession of BSID.

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- iii. The Shipping/RPSL Companies, that are to engage seafarers having BSID on board such vessel which may visit Ports in Brazil.
7. All seafarers are once again requested to have their BSID card issued and all ship-owners and RPSLs are also requested to ensure that the seafarers on board their vessel are in possession of BSID Cards. If not, the seafarers may be encouraged to get their data captured at the nearest data capturing center; so that the intention of the DGS Circular No. 23 of 2022 can be accomplished.
8. This issues with the approval of Director General of Shipping in the rank of Secretary to the Govt. of India.



(Ashish Sinha)

Deputy Director General of Shipping

To,

- i. All stakeholders through DGS website.
- ii. Government Shipping Offices, Mumbai/Chennai/Kolkata.
- iii. Mercantile Marine Departments.
- iv. Computer Cell (For translation).

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