



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

F.No.21-12011/1/2020-COASTAL-DGS

Date: 05.08.2020

06

DGS ORDER No. 22 of 2020

Subject: Issuance of Seamen Identity Cards to Sailing Vessel Crew - reg.

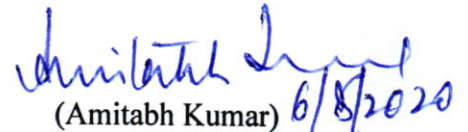
1. Whereas, the Merchant Shipping (Sailing Vessels) Rules, 1997, notified under sub-section (1) of Section 420, sub-section (1) of Section 435 and Section 457 read with Sections 429 and 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (44 of 1958), mandates that every person serving on board a sailing vessel should be having an identity card issued by the issuing authority specified in Schedule V of the said rules.
2. Whereas the Directorate General of Shipping has developed an online module for issuance of identity cards for persons sailing on board sailing vessel which is being processed centrally at the Directorate. In the COVID-19 pandemic situation it is not possible to have it signed by the issuing authorities as mentioned in the Schedule V of the said rules.
3. Whereas, such a situation appears to be affecting the employment of people on sailing vessels and such hindrance is averse to national interest. Moreover, the lock-down situation due to pandemic has resulted in loss of employment to various people in the country. Therefore, there is a need to facilitate easy and efficient issuance of I-cards, so that employment opportunities are not lost for citizen of the country in sailing vessels.
4. Whereas, Section 456 of MS Act, 1958 empowers the Central Government that it may by order in writing and upon such conditions, if any, as it may think fit to impose, dispense with the observance of any specified requirement to be complied by any ship or sailing vessel or any master, tinal or seaman, if it is satisfied that requirement has been substantially complied with or that compliance with the requirement is or ought to be dispensed with in the circumstances of the case.
5. Whereas, due to circumstances posed by the pandemic situation (spread of COVID-19), there has arisen a need to ensure ease and efficiency in the issuance of the identity cards to persons form serving on board sailing vessels in a manner that is best suited to serve national interests and to meet the objectives of the Act. Under the circumstances / situation, in public interest, demand that some procedural dispensation needs to be given for issuance of I-Card.

6. Now therefore, the Director General of Shipping in exercise of power under section 456 read with S.O. 3144 dated 17/12/1960 dispenses the requirement of the I-Card to have the signature of respective issuing authorities, on the conditions as below:

- a) The applicant shall submit the application for identity cards electronically through the e-module developed by the DG Shipping.
- b) The application shall be accepted and scrutinized by the Regional Officer (Sails) as per the applicable Rule requirements.
- c) On acceptance of the application, Regional Officer (Sails) may forward the application to the Directorate for printing.
- d) The signature on I-card shall be put / inked by the Regional Officer (Sails), Mumbai, who is one of the signatory as per aforesaid mentioned MS (Sailing Vessel) Rules, 1997.

7. All other authority exercisable by the issuing authority under above mentioned rules shall **continue** to be exercised by respective issuing authority.

8. This Order shall come into force with an immediate effect.


(Amitabh Kumar) 6/8/2020

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

To:

All Regional Officers (Sails)