Clarification to DGS Order No. 12 of 2020

Subject: Standard Operating Procedures / Protocols (SOP) for controlled crew change - reg.

1. DGS Order No. 12 of 2020 dated 22.04.2020 has been issued to provide detailed Standard Operating Procedure / Protocol for sign-on and sign-off of Indian crew at Indian Ports. Para 5 (2) (7) of the SoP in respect of sign-off states that “Seafarer arriving on a vessel from any foreign port within 14 days of departure from foreign port shall be kept in quarantine for a total of 14 days from the date of departure from the last foreign port at a facility approved by the Port or State authority. On completion of 14 days, he shall undergo a COVID-19 test to confirm ‘negative’ test.”

2. In the said regard, it is clarified that the above said para requirement is only applicable for vessels arriving from any foreign port. Seafarers on board Indian flag vessels operating exclusively on the Indian coast, harbour and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are **NOT required** to undergo quarantine of 14 days, post disembarkation from such a vessel, if the seafarer is tested negative for COVID-19 and is asymptomatic and subject to compliance of all listed conditions for controlled crew change as stipulated in DGS Order 12 of 2020 dated 22.04.2020 and its addendum.

3. Also, it is noted that seafarers serving on board tugs, pilot launch, mooring boats etc. operating exclusively within port limits for port operations are being asked to undergo quarantine of 14 days, post disembarkation from such vessels. Seafarers serving on board the said vessels which are operating exclusively within port limits are **NOT required** to undergo quarantine of 14 days, post disembarkation from such a vessel. The said seafarers are to be treated as port staff and necessary quick clearances and facilitation shall be provided by the ports for crew changes as applicable.

4. It is also further instructed that Master shall ensure that all Indian seafarers serving onboard shall maintain daily records for temperature, pulse, blood pressure and respiratory rate. These said records are to be produced to appropriate authorities on request.

5. This issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

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