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पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
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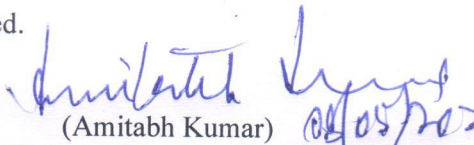
F. No. 7-NT(72)/2014

Date: 08.05.2020

Addendum 2 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) (4) of the SoP in respect of sign-off states that “*Seafarer arriving on a vessel would undergo the COVID-19 test to confirm that he / she is negative of COVID-19. After disembarking and till the time the seafarer reaches the facility for sample collection / testing to be mutually decided by the Port & State Government, within port premises, it will be ensured by the shipowner / RPS that all safety precautions as per standard health protocol are observed.*”
2. Many ports have sought clarification on whether the entire COVID-19 sample collection / testing facility need to be arranged within the port premises or it will be sufficient to provide facility for collection of samples for COVID-19 test inside the port. Para 5 (2) (4) of the SoP for sign-off has been provided to ensure that the sample for COVID-19 test of the seafarer is collected before he is moved to a quarantine facility to wait for the report of the test. Hence, the purpose of the provision is served if the sample collection facility is provided within the Port premises and the actual testing is done at a state government facility. The language of the DGS order also clear that either collection centre or testing facility for COVID-19 test should be provided within the port premises.
3. Many ports have also sought clarification that after collection of samples within the port premises, the seafarer has to wait for the results of COVID-19 test at a quarantine location and inquired whether the quarantine facilities are to be located inside the port premises or outside the port premises. In the said regard, it is clarified that the said quarantine facilities can be within port premises or outside the port premises, as approved by local health authorities.
4. Ports handling sign-off from cruise vessels have inquired whether, a) collection of swabs for COVID 19 test can be arranged on-board the ship; & b) the sign-off crew can continue to stay on-board till the results of the test are received. Para 5(2)(7) of the DGS Order No. 12 relating to sign-off states that for the purposes of calculating 14 days quarantine period, the period spend on board from last port of call should be counted as period spent under quarantine. This is because, the ship itself is disinfected and without any COVID 19 symptoms. Hence the purposes of Para 5(2)(4) & 5(2)(5) will be adequately satisfied, if the swab is collected on-board the ship itself (within the port premises) and seafarer is allowed to wait on-board till the reports are received. It is clarified, however that the swab should be collected for COVID 19 tests in such cases only after the seafarer has spent 14 days on board the ship from the last port of call.
5. All other protocols of DGS Order 12 of 2020 shall be strictly followed.


(Amitabh Kumar)
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