



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

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F.No.23-UNI/5/2021-CREW-DGS

Dated 07.04.2022

DGS CIRCULAR NO. 08 OF 2022

Subject: **Coronavirus (COVID 19) – arrangement for 3rd Dose/Booster dose of vaccination for seafarers –reg.**

Whereas, as per the Guidelines dated 27.12.2021 for COVID 19 issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi which has come into force on 3rd January, 2022 'Booster' (precaution) dose can be availed after completion of 9 months i.e. 39 weeks from the date of administration of 2nd dose by Health Care Workers (HCWs), Front Line Workers (FLWs) & 60+ population with comorbidity.

2. And whereas, numerous forums around the world have recognized the importance of shipping in keeping the global supply chain open in order to respond to and recover from the COVID 19 pandemic.

3. And whereas, the Government of India has promulgated an "Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1968 in which the definition of essential service means "any railway service or any transport service for carriage of passengers or goods by land, water or air with respect to which Parliament has the powers to make law". As such shipping services are already defined as essential service in India.

4. And whereas, since the beginning of the COVID-19, the Government of India has recognized the seafarers as "Key Workers" and permitted crew change in the ports in India. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India vide Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 24.3.2020 under clause 7 of its guidelines has included 'sea crew' as essential services and supplies. Further, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India vide Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 21.04.2020 by Sub-clause (iii) under Clause 17 had included the movement of persons to allow sign-on and sign-off of Indian seafarers at Indian ports and their movement for the aforesaid purpose as per the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The SOP has also noted that Directorate General of Shipping will prescribe the detailed protocol. Accordingly, DGS Order No.12 of 2020 dated 22.04.2020 and Addendums 1 to 4 have been issued prescribing the Standard

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Operating Procedures/Protocols (SOP) for controlled crew change of Indian seafarers at Indian ports to facilitate and regulate crew change for seafarers so that the safe environment on the ship is not compromised or no contamination is brought from ship to shore. The Directorate has also permitted and facilitated sign on and sign off of foreign seafarers in Indian ports.

5. Therefore, the Directorate has in accordance with the joint resolution issued by various bodies of the United Nations, namely, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and International Labour Organization (ILO), designated all seafarers within the jurisdiction of this country as "Key Workers" providing an essential service.

6. And whereas, in view of the nature of COVID 19 pandemic, it is highly advised that as far as possible the seafarers get themselves vaccinated 3rd Dose/Booster dose before signing on ship from the nearby COVID vaccination centers.

7. And whereas to keep the supply chain uninterrupted and in the general interest of Indian seafarers, they are required to get the booster doze before joining the ship.

8. Now therefore, the Indian seafarer who have completed 39 weeks from completion of the second dose is strongly advised to take the 3rd dose/booster dose as has been prescribed for the front line workers.

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

(Ashish Sinha)

Deputy Director General of Shipping (Crew)

To

1. All stakeholders through DG Shipping Website.
2. Computer Cell for placing this Circular at DG Shipping Website.
3. E-Gov Branch.
4. AD(OL) for Hindi version