DGS Order No. 24 of 2021

Subject: Instructions to all statutory bodies and surveyors conducting inspection on board merchant ships - Restricting Ship to shore interactions during second wave of COVID-19 pandemic - reg.


2. To slow the spread of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic and mitigate its impacts, travel advisories have been issued by many jurisdictions in India. Several countries are imposing restriction on movement of ship and seafarers calling at Indian ports.

3. It has been brought to the notice of the Directorate that various agencies such as Port officials, Terminal operators, Customs, Immigration, ONGC Inspectors, Third party inspectors including charterers or their representatives, surveyors, Surveyors of MMDs, are boarding the ships without following the COVID protocol and entering into the accommodation spaces. This is neither safe for visitors to ship nor safe for the crew on board the ship. Ship to shore interactions must be avoided and kept to bare minimum to keep the ship and crew safe and sanitized and contain spread of the disease. Masters of Indian vessels shall create SOPs for contactless interaction with the above agencies which can be used to safely undertake both navigation and cargo operations.

4. In view of the above all concerned officials are advised to desist from boarding the vessel, unless absolutely necessary. In case any visitors, inspectors/surveyors are required to board the vessel such personnel should follow the COVID protocols including wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and stay away from accommodation spaces.

(Amitabh Kumar)
Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Govt. of India.

To

1. All stakeholders through DGS Website.
2. Customs Authorities
3. PSUs concerned
4. Computer Cell with a request to place it on DGS website
5. AD(OL)