DG(S) Order No: 1/2005

Sub: Issuance of Certificate “B” to Inter Island Passenger Ships operating in Andaman and Nicobar Region

In accordance with the provisions of section 240 read with section 241 and 242 of Merchant Shipping Act 1958, Special Trade Passenger Ships carry Certificate “A” and “B”. While Certificate “A” is issued on yearly basis, Certificate “B” is issued every time a Special Trade Passenger Ships departs from a port. Both of these certificates are issued after satisfactory completion of inspection by the certifying officer as per the relevant sections of the said Act. Provisions of section 242 of the said Act prescribe the entries and details of inspection for issuance of Certificate “B”.

2. Requirement of carriage of Certificate “B” for a certain category of Special Trade Passenger Ships operating within inter-islands of Andaman and Nicobar was exempted, as issuance of this certificate at each occasion of sailing for all Special Trade Passenger Ships from different locations in Andaman and Nicobar islands was not found to be practical.

3. Recognizing the fact that such inspections are required to ensure the safety of ships and passengers, the Director General of Shipping and ex-officio Addl. Secretary to Govt. of India, therefore, in exercise of power conferred by Clause(1) of section 456 of the MS Act 1958, delegates issuance of Certificate “B” to Special Trade Passenger Ships operating within inter-island of Andaman and Nicobar islands other than those plying between Andaman and Southern group of Island, to surveyors of the Indian Register of
Shipping (IRS). Such vessels will be inspected by IRS surveyors at port Blair only as per the provisions of Section 242 of the said Act and issue Certificate “B” in the prescribed format on behalf of Central Government (Copy of format is enclosed). The IRS surveyors shall be considered as Certifying officer and notice of sailing shall be served to such surveyors as per the provisions of section 238 of the said Act. Special Trade Passenger Ships sailing from ports other than Port Blair are exempted from carriage of Certificate “B”.

4. The IRS surveyor appointed for this purpose will however conduct at least two inspections under the supervision of Surveyor in Charge (SIC), MMD Port Blair, before he is entrusted for independent inspection. Such surveyors may also familiarize themselves with other requirements of Section 239(Power to enter on and inspect ship), 240(Ship not to sail without certificates A and B), 244(Survey of ship), 245 (Discretion as to grant of Certificate B) & 256 (Ship taking additional passengers at intermediate place) of the said Act pertaining to Special Trade Passenger Ships.

5. The owner/operator shall deposit IRS surveyor’s visit fee payable at IRS Port Blair.

6. This order shall remain in force initially for a period of two years from the date of issue and after the review decision on the extension would be taken. This order supersedes the earlier letter issued by the Directorate vide its letter No. 40-NT (1)/2004 dated 1.12.2004. However, inspection & issuance of Certificate “B” at Port Blair to Special Trade Passenger Ships operating between Port Blair and Mainland and Southern Group of Islands by SIC, MMD, Port Blair shall continue.

Sd/-
(G.S.Sahini)
Director General of Shipping &
Ex. Officio Additional Secretary to the Govt. of India