DG Shipping Order No. 17 of 2013

Sub: Non-availability of sufficient opportunities for the mandatory on-board sea training for the candidates passing out from the various approved Maritime Training Institutes, and Indian Maritime University, conducting approved pre-sea courses—obtaining Recruitment and Placement Service licenses by such institutions—reg.

The Maritime Training Institutions (MTIs) duly approved by the Directorate General of Shipping [DGS], Govt. of India for conducting pre-sea maritime training courses & with a view to facilitate on-board sea training for the candidates thereof were facilitated vide the DGS Order No. 02 of 2013 [F. No.CR/RPS/61/2012] dated 31.01.13, to setup and operate their own Recruitment Placement of seafarers [RPS] service agencies, in order to enable them to fulfill all the responsibilities prescribed on them by the DGS for placing their trainees on board, for obtaining the required sea-time on vessels. The said DGS Order has also extended a relaxation to such MTIs for the submission of Form-IX [on contracts between the RPS agencies & seafarers employers] within a maximum period of six months. The said relaxation was mainly provided to facilitate the MTIs to prove their credibility while trying for contracts with ship owners/employers.

2. While applying for such RPS licenses, the procedures set out under Rule 4 of the Merchant Shipping (M.S.) (Recruitment & Placement Services) (RPS) Rules, 2005, as amended, require that such RPS licenses shall be issued after due inspection is carried out, under Rule 3(3) ibid. The said inspection is intended to ensure an availability of stipulated infrastructure and other documented policies relating to the RPS are checked & fulfilled. Thus, the said procedures are likely to consume time and the issuance of provisional licenses to such MTIs’ may possibly be delayed as the same is contingent upon the completion of such inspection. The MTI’s are entities already approved by this office, after their inspections. The said DGS Order No. 02 of 2013 further facilitates a provisional license, only to reduce potential procedural delays and clearly stipulates that such MTI’s can place their trainees on board only after completing all the requisite procedural formalities. Therefore, a further relaxation in carrying out the said initial inspection within six months may incrementally facilitate the MTIs in completing the formalities for entering into agreements with shipowners/employers and furnish Form-IX.

3. Considering these factors, the Director General of Shipping and ex-officio Additional Secretary to the Government of India, in exercise of the powers conferred on him under section 456 (1) of the Merchant Shipping Act,1958, read with the notification issued by the Government of India [Ministry of Transport & Communicates, Department of Transport] vide S. O. No. 3144 dated 17.12.60, delegating the said power to him, hereby prescribes the following additional relaxation to such DGS approved maritime training institutes, while applying for obtaining recruitment and placement of seafarers service licenses;
3.1. Such a MTI, desires if it so may also request for time for submitting itself for an initial inspection of its institution by the Recognized Organization concerned (Indian Register of Shipping [IRS]); within a maximum period of six months. If the institute requests for such time, subject to the fulfillment of the other prescribed requirements, already set out, a provisional license [RPS] may be issued to such an entity, for six months. However, such an institute has to submit itself for such an initial inspection, immediately after entering into an agreement with its principal and submitting the Form-IX and other documents, before the IRS but commence seafarers recruitment processes only after completing the said inspection successfully. The provisional license, thus, provided, shall be regularized as a full fledged & regular license as soon as the said Form-IX, duly signed by the given institute & it’s Principal is submitted & the said initial inspection, carried out successfully. However, no such provisional license shall be extended for more than 6 months.

3.2. Such an approved maritime training institute shall be entitled to place only the trainees trained in it’s own institutes, for such on-board sea training, under this order.

3.3. Such MTIs who have already submitted their applications for RPS licenses shall, if they so desire avail the above relaxation facility for an initial inspection, write to the jurisdictional Director, Seamens’ Employment Office (DSEO), to that effect, and the DSEO shall, upon completing the formalities as stipulated above issue provisional licenses for a period six months only. Such applicants have to furnish the said Form-IX and offer themselves for an initial inspection within that period.

4. All the other terms & conditions of this office preceding DGS Order No. 02 of2013 shall remain unchanged.

(Gautam Chatterjee)
Director General of Shipping
ex- officio Additional Secretary to the Government of India

To

1. All the DGS, GoI, approved Maritime Training Institutions.
2. Director, Seamens’ Employment Offices, Mumbai, Chennai & Kolkata.
3. Indian Register of Shipping, Mumbai.

Copy forward for an information & necessary action to the;

1. Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Departments, Mumbai, Chennai,Kolkata, Kandla & Kochi.
2. Surveyors-in-Charge, Mercantile Marine Departments, Jamnagar, Marmngoa, Mangalore, Tuticorin, Vishakapatnam, Paradip, Haldia, Port Blair & NOIDA.
3. INSA/FOSMA/MASSA.
4. Nautical/Engineering/Naval Architecture/Training/SD/Hindi Branches of the DGS.
5. Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Shipping, Transport Bhavan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi – 110001.