



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

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
**DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI**



DGS Order: 20 of 2022

F.No.16-17011/5/2021-SD-DGS

Dated: 20.10.2022

Sub: Certification of Offshore vessels, accommodation barges. etc. while operating in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone-reg.

1. The Directorate had earlier issued Merchant Shipping Notice 22 of 2013 dated 05.09.2013. This DGS order supersedes the earlier MS Notice 22 of 2013 dated 05.09.2013 with immediate effect.
2. This Order is intended to put in place the guidelines for certification and documentation requirement for vessels operating in Indian waters (i.e. Indian and foreign) certified under SPS Code or MODU Code 1989 or 2009, carrying more than 12 persons other than Master and crew of the vessel.
3. The requirements are applicable to self-propelled as well as non-self-propelled vessels irrespective of their size (GT) or the propulsion power (KW).
- A. Requirements for Self-propelled vessels:**
4. Self-propelled vessel shall be in possession of relevant Convention certificates with all annual/periodical/intermediate endorsements, class certificate indicating specific notations, as well as insurance certificates, MLC certificate, Safety Management certificates, ISPS Certificate and updated class survey status.
5. Self-propelled vessels carrying more than 12 persons other than Master and crew, shall be certified either as a passenger vessel or as a Special Purpose Ship.
6. A 'Special Purpose Ship' shall comply with the requirements given below
  - a. Vessels constructed after 13th May, 2008 shall fully comply with SPS Code, 2008 [MSC Resolution 266(84)].
  - b. Vessels constructed before 13th May, 2008, shall fully comply with SPS Code [IMO Res A 534(13)].
7. Vessels which undergo a major modification, as defined in SOLAS II-1/1.3 will be considered as a new vessel and shall comply with the provisions under para 6(a) above.
8. All vessels, irrespective of its type / GT, are required to implement and maintain an effective safety management system (SMS) covering both the Company operations and operations on board all ships, subject to the ISM Code. These vessels shall possess a valid Document of Compliance (DOC) and Safety Management Certificate (SMC) or Statement of Compliance (SoC) for both, in accordance with the ISM Code, issued by an RO authorised by the Government of India [henceforth, referred as RO].

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### **Requirements for Crew Boat:**

9. Vessels such as Crew Boat/utility boat/work boat/etc., engaged in transferring personnel to offshore vessels/facilities are required to comply with following:
  - a. "High speed crafts (HSC) carrying more than 12 persons other than Master and crew (acquired for registration as an Indian vessel or foreign vessel seeking license for operation in Indian waters, subsequent to the issue of this order) shall be certified as HSC Passenger Ships under HSC Code.
  - b. Such existing Indian vessels (except those falling under high speed craft definition) certified under SPS Code, as per MSN 22 of 2013 may continue to operate under the old regime.
  - c. The existing Indian high speed crafts certified under SPS Code as per MSN 22 of 2013 shall additionally meet the Intact & Damage stability, Structural fire protection and additional safety requirements with respect to speed and acceleration as required for an HSC passenger craft. This is to be complied by next scheduled dry docking.
  - d. All such crew boats and companies operating such vessels shall possess certificates under ISM Code irrespective of tonnage. The SAR plan and arrangements shall be made available and verified by RO and shall demonstrate search and rescue support from shore, within 3 months from the issuance of this Order.

### **Requirements for 'Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit':**

10. Existing 'Mobile Offshore Drilling Units' (propelled/non-propelled) under Indian registry, shall comply with the requirements of MODU Code, 1979, 1989 or 2009, depending on the year of construction/modification. Such MODUs certified as per the 1979 MODU Code shall upgrade and obtain certification under the MODU Code 1989 within 2 years from the date of issuance of this Order.

Foreign flag Mobile offshore drilling units certified as per the 1979 MODU Code, working in Indian waters on the date of issuance of this Order, shall upgrade and obtain certification under the MODU Code 1989 within 2 years from the date of issuance of this Order.

Any 'Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit' (propelled/non-propelled) participating in a tender, after the issuance of this Order (i.e. Indian or Foreign), shall comply with the requirements of MODU Code, 1989 or 2009, depending on the year of construction/modification.

### **B. Requirements for Non-Self-propelled accommodation barge :**

11. The non-self-propelled accommodation vessels (i.e. Indian or Foreign) in addition to meeting the requirements of MODU Code 1989 or 2009 depending on the year of construction/modification shall comply with the following in addition to possessing an MODU Safety Certificate (or an equivalent Safety certificate as a non-drilling surface unit with accommodation as per MODU Code 1989/2009). Such non-propelled vessels operating in Indian waters shall be accompanied by the certificates & documents mentioned below.
  - a. Shall be in possession of;

- i. All ships are required to carry on board certificates in accordance with provisions of the MLC Convention confirming that financial security is in place for:
    - a. Ship-owners' liabilities for repatriation of crew, essential needs such as food, accommodation and medical care and up to four months' outstanding contractual wages and entitlements in the event of abandonment (Regulation 2.5, Standard A2.5.2 Paragraph 9).
    - b. Compensation for death or long-term disability due to an occupational injury, illness or hazard set out in the employment agreement or collective agreement (Regulation 4.2, Standard A4.2.1 paragraph 1(b)).
  - ii. Certificate of Insurance or Other Financial Security in Respect of Liability for the Removal of Wrecks (WRLC),
  - iii. Certificate of Insurance or Other Financial Security in Respect of Liability for the Bunker pollution,
  - iv. Certificate of Class for hull, machinery and anchor & mooring arrangements. The certificate of Class shall clearly indicate relevant class notations towards certification with respect to vessel type, purpose, hull, all machinery and equipment fitted on board.
  - v. Load Line certificate,
  - vi. MARPOL certificates and its supplements (requirements under Annex-I, IV, V and VI),
  - vii. ISPS certificate (or a SOC for foreign flag ships from an RO authorised by Government of India),
  - viii. MLC certificate (or a SOC for foreign flag ships from an RO authorised by Government of India),
  - ix. Company DoC under ISM Code with endorsement for annual surveillance (or a SOC for foreign flag ships from an RO authorised by Government of India),
  - x. Safety Management certificate under ISM Code (or a SOC for foreign flag ships from an RO authorised by Government of India),
  - xi. *International Anti-Fouling System Certificate*,
  - xii. GMDSS and radio communication equipment on board, in compliance with MODU Code, as applicable, for the GMDSS sea area A3 along with ship station licence.
  - xiii. Maritime mobile V-Sat terminal used on board the vessel while operating in Indian waters need to comply with the requirements specified in the "Flight and Maritime Connectivity Rules, 2018 of the Ministry of Communication notified on 14.12.2018 as may be amended from time to time."
  - xiv. "Ship's Register of Lifting Appliances and Cargo handling gear" and certificates of all gear on the vessel including cranes.
- b. All offshore vessels, irrespective of its type / GT, are required to implement and maintain an effective Safety Management System (SMS) covering both the Company operations and operations on board all ships, subject to the ISM Code. These vessels shall possess a valid DOC and SMC or SOC for both, in accordance with the ISM Code, issued by an RO authorised by Government of India.
  - c. There shall be a Designated Person (DP) assigned in India with direct access to top management to provide and implement risk mitigation measures and emergency preparedness on the vessel and assistance, in case required by the vessel from shore in all cases. If the DP is stationed outside India for foreign flag vessels, then a dedicated person shall be stationed in India having experience of ISM as a minimum qualification as Master (FG) or Chief Engineer officer (Class 1) or Naval Architect having minimum five years of relevant experience as ISM Lead Auditor with a Classification Society or Maritime Administration and holding a responsible position in the organization or Graduate Mechanical / Electrical / Marine or Petroleum Engineer

having experience of at least 05 years in the relevant field and holding a senior management position. Further, the risk assessment as required under Clause 1.2.2.2 of the ISM Code should additionally address the following:

- i. Detailed risk analysis reviewed by RO authorised by Government of India identifying the various risks involved to the vessel, crew, special personnel and marine environment and based on crew manning being placed for non-propelled vessels and identification of risk mitigation measures with regard to specific operations carried out by the vessel on the Indian waters, transfer of personnel to other vessels or structures and keeping track of their movements, towing (manned/unmanned scenarios involving weather exceeding limiting parameters), damage, fire, mooring line failure, collision, man overboard, etc.
  - ii. All mitigation measures such as procedures, training, manning, emergency preparedness drill etc. should be identified and implemented.
  - iii. The vessel shall be additionally manned with the required certified seafarers as identified in RO reviewed Risk Assessment.
- d. Availability of Minimum Safe Manning by the STCW certified officers and ratings. As a minimum, the following manning is prescribed for vessels operating in Indian waters.

<b>Nautical Grade Manning:</b>				
Sr. No.	Rank	Qualification as per STCW Convention (Regulation)	Numbers	Remarks
01.	Master (FG/NCV)	II/2 & V/2	01	Additional manning based on Risk Assessment reviewed by RO.
02	Mate (FG)/NCV (Mate)	II/2 & V/2 (NCV mate may be employed on vessels less than 6000 GT)	01	
03	Officer In charge of Navigational watch (FG) or (NCV) with one year rank experience	II/1 & V/2	02	
04	GMDSS Operator	IV/1 (GMDSS COC) & V/2	01	
05	Able seafarers Deck	II/5 & V/2	03	
06	Ratings	With basic STCW Courses & V/2	03	
07	Cook	MLC Compliant	01	
<b>Engineering Manning:</b>				
01	Chief Engineer	III/2 read with I/3, V/2	01	Additional manning based on Risk Assessment reviewed by RO.
02.	Second Engineer	III/2 read with I/3, V/2	01	
03	Officer In charge of Engineering watch (FG), (NCV) with one year rank experience	III/1 read with I/3, V/2	01	
04	AB Engine	III/4 or III/5, V/2	03	
05	GP Ratings			

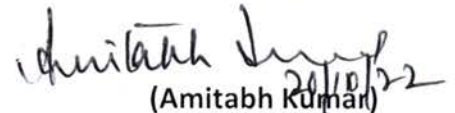
Note – Sea service of seafarers working on such vessels shall be recognized for purpose of their certificate of proficiency or for revalidation of Certificate of Competencies.

- e. Such vessels shall be equipped to be secured safely at its location while carrying special personnel or passengers on board. A mooring analysis assessment report approved by a Recognized Organization of the Government of India indicating the limiting Operational parameters and Limiting Environmental conditions for the vessel to be placed on board. The vessels shall move to safe waters if the limiting parameters are exceeded.
  - f. Approved towing plan in fair and foul weather (manned or unmanned) as per MS Notice 08 of 2013 shall be placed on board. The approved towing plan must indicate the limiting weather parameters for fair and foul weather conditions.
  - g. "All crew accommodation area shall be in compliance with the requirements specified in MLC 2006, MS (Crew accommodation) Rules 1960 as amended or crew accommodation certificate for compliance with ILO 92 or ILO 133, depending on the year of built". The accommodation facilities used, or appropriated for use, by personnel other Master and crew shall be in compliance with the relevant requirements specified in MLC 2006, as applicable for such personnel.
12. Non propelled accommodation barges which are issued with SPS certificate in accordance with MS Notice 22 of 2013 dated 05.09.2013 are required to obtain MODU Code certificate by next scheduled dry dock. For existing vessels which are already certified under MODU Code and presently holding a dispensation from the requirement of lifeboat, are required to provide life boats as per MODU Code within 6 months from the date of issuance of this Order.
  13. All non-self-propelled barges are required to maintain immersion suits for all personnel on board and additional immersion suits as appropriate for the number of personnel at bridge, machinery control room.
  14. When a unit undergoes a conversion, modification, or change of use which substantially alters its service, dimensions, or capacity, it shall be subject to the provisions of the 2009 MODU Code.

**General Requirements for both Self-propelled and Non Self-propelled vessels:**

15. Vessels granted exemptions by their flag which is not permitted under Convention/Code or otherwise, and also if such exemptions have not been granted to Indian vessels by the Directorate shall generally not be considered.
16. Maximum age of Life rafts used on board the accommodation barges shall be not more than 10 years.
17. Insurance certificates required for non-marine personnel not to be less than INR 22 Lakhs or as provided in contract, whichever is higher.
18. Vessels while transferring the persons from their vessel to offshore platforms or accommodation barges or offshore ships shall be guided by IMO guidelines issued vide IMO circular "MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.10 dated 14.07.2014 and International Marine Contractors Association [IMCA] guidance on the transfer of personnel to and from offshore vessels.
19. All vessels shall possess a SPS Safety certificate or a MODU Safety Certificate as applicable (in the format given in the SPS/MODU Code), issued by one of the RO.
20. An approved SAR plan for coordination with appropriate Indian search and rescue services (i.e. MRCC) in the event of an emergency shall be available. The plan shall be developed in co-operation between the ship, company and Indian search & rescue services. The plan shall include provisions for periodic exercises to be undertaken to test its effectiveness. [The general guidelines for preparing plans for cooperation between search and rescue services and passenger ships may be obtained from IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1079/Rev.1 dated 16 June 2017].

21. An emergency evacuation plan and plan for emergency demobilization and proceeding to an assigned safe location shall be available.
22. Aero VHF for two-way on scene radio communications for search and rescue purposes using the aeronautical frequencies 121.5 MHz and 123.1 MHz shall be available along with suitable periodic maintenance records from the vessel ROs.
23. All foreign flag vessels including accommodation barges shall be made available for Port State Control inspection as and when required.
24. All Indian accommodation barges shall be made available for the flag state inspection [FSI] annually.
25. All Indian Flag Accommodation barges shall obtain trading licence to operate in Indian waters.
26. The entity who has engaged the vessel in Indian waters shall ensure compliance of the vessels with the relevant requirement under this DGS order.
27. With respect to insurance referred in this order, the vessel's third party liabilities (MLC, Wreck removal, Bunker pollution, CLC, etc) and for its crew (medical, injury, death, etc) shall be covered by the P&I Club of the ship-owner which shall be an IG P&I Club or Govt. of India approved Club.
28. With respect to insurance of non-marine personnel referred in this order (at least 22 Lakhs INR or as per the contract, whichever is higher), the insurance shall be provided by the P&I Club mentioned in previous paragraph. However, insurance from Indian insurance companies may also be considered provided that Indian insurance company is able to cover such liability i.e. for person(s) while working at sea on barges and/or platforms.
29. This order has been issued in public interest to ensure the safety of life at sea.
30. The operations of the vessels and permissions thereto shall be subject to meeting the above conditions as may be applicable, as per section 406 (3) and section 407(3) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.
31. Unless otherwise specified in the order, the requirements contained in this order shall come into force with immediate effect.

  
(Amitabh Kumar)

**Director General of Shipping &  
Additional Secretary to the Govt. of India.**

To,

1. All stakeholders/Charterers/Shippers/operators of vessels in offshore area/All Indian Shipping Companies, through the official website of the DGS, Gol.
2. ONGC.
3. CEO, INSA, Mumbai.
4. President, ICCSA, Mumbai.

Copy also forwarded for kind information to the:

1. Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Transport Bhawan, 1, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001
2. Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, A-Wing, Shastri Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New De1hi- 110011.
3. Director General of Hydrocarbons, Gol.
4. Chairman, ONGC.