



Technical Circular

No.: 015/2026

Date: 24th September 2026

Subject: India - Additional requirements regarding P&I/insurance coverage for engagement and deployment of Indian seafarers on foreign flag vessels.

1. The Indian Maritime Administration has issued DGMA order 22 of 2026 on above subject.
2. Before engaging, recruiting or deploying Indian seafarers on any vessel the RPSL company must ensure that the vessel shall have valid and verifiable P&I/insurance coverage through:
 - a. any P&I Club that is a member of the International Group of P&I Clubs (IGP&I); or
 - b. an Approved Non-IG Insurance Company/P&I Club, from among the insurance companies/P&I Clubs approved and published on the official website by the Directorate General of Maritime Administration.
3. Where such P and I insurance cover is not available as specified in the DGMA order, the RPSL companies must take adequate cover for each such seafarer.

In cases where a vessel is not covered under the aforesaid P&I/insurance arrangements, the concerned RPSL company shall ensure that mandatory insurance coverage of not less than 1,00,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore only) per Indian seafarer is obtained from any of the IRDA approved Indian insurance companies or from DGMA approved P&I service providers for engagement of Indian Seafarers onboard such vessels. The said requirement shall be applicable only for vessels which are not covered under the P&I/insurance arrangements.

4. For seafarers already on board and not complying with the requirements, the RPSL company shall inform the flag and arrange repatriation/ secure insurance within a month.
5. Any failure to comply with the above requirements shall be viewed seriously by the Administration.
6. Please see the attached DGMA order for details.

Enclosure:

1. DGMA Order 22 of 2026.



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Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
समुद्रीय प्रशासन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
Directorate General of Maritime Administration, Mumbai

F. No. 23-ABAN/87/2025-CREW – DGS –Part (1) (C. No.42647)

Date:28.08.2026

DGMA Order 22 of 2026

Subject: Additional requirements regarding P&I/Insurance coverage for engagement and deployment of Indian seafarers on foreign flag vessels – reg.

Reference:

DGS Order No. 08 of 2026 dated 14.05.2026 – Preventive Measures to Reduce abandonment of Indian Seafarers on Board Foreign Flag Vessels.

Reference is invited to DGS Order No. 08 of 2026 dated 14.05.2026, wherein preventive measures have been prescribed to safeguard the safety, dignity and welfare of Indian seafarers and to ensure availability of valid and verifiable financial security in respect of vessels engaging Indian seafarers. The said Order, inter alia, requires valid and verifiable financial security documents in respect of vessels covered under the Order.

2. The following requirements are issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 301 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, read with the provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006), and the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Rules, 2016.

3. In continuation of the provisions contained in DGS Order No. 08 of 2026, the following additional requirements shall be complied with by all Recruitment and Placement Service Licence (RPSL) companies before engaging, recruiting or deploying Indian seafarers on any vessel:

3.1 P&I / Insurance Coverage

The vessel shall have valid and verifiable P&I/insurance coverage through:

- (a) any P&I Club that is a member of the International Group of P&I Clubs (IGP&I); or
- (b) an Approved Non-IG Insurance Company/P&I Club, from among the insurance companies/P&I Clubs approved and published on the official website by the Directorate General of Maritime Administration.

The RPSL company shall verify the validity and authenticity of the relevant P&I/insurance certificate before deployment of any Indian seafarer and shall maintain the documentary evidence of such verification.

3.2 Mandatory Insurance for Indian seafarers engaged in foreign flag vessels not Covered under Para 3.1

In cases where a vessel is not covered under the aforesaid P&I/insurance arrangements, the concerned RPSL company shall ensure that mandatory insurance coverage of not less than ₹1,00,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore only) per Indian seafarer is obtained from any of the IRDA approved Indian insurance companies or from DGMA approved P&I service providers for

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engagement of Indian Seafarers onboard such vessels. The said requirement shall be applicable only for vessels which are not covered under the P&I/insurance arrangements specified under para 3.1 above.

3.3 Action to be taken in case of seafarers already engaged onboard foreign flag vessels with non-recognized P&I/Insurance Coverage

In the event that any vessel with Indian seafarers is found to have P&I/insurance coverage other than that specified under para 3.1 above, or where the requisite P&I/insurance coverage is found to be invalid, inadequate, unavailable or not verifiable, the concerned RPSL company shall immediately take necessary action either to obtain the additional insurance coverage mentioned in Para 3.2 within a maximum period of one month or to arrange the sign-off of the Indian seafarers at the earliest port of call within one month, followed by their safe repatriation to India.

No further engagement, recruitment or deployment of Indian seafarers on such vessel shall be undertaken unless and until the requisite P&I/insurance coverage, as specified in this Order, has been duly complied with and verified.

3.4 Reporting of Non-Compliance

The concerned RPSL company shall inform the Directorate General of Maritime Administration within one month regarding such non-compliance and furnish details of the action taken for ensuring the requisite insurance coverage and, wherever applicable, sign-off and repatriation of the affected Indian seafarers.

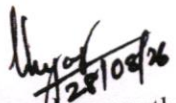
4. It shall be the responsibility of the concerned RPSL company to verify and ensure compliance with the above requirements before engaging, recruiting or deploying any Indian seafarer on the vessel. No Indian seafarer shall be engaged or deployed on a vessel unless the requirements specified in this Order are duly complied with and the relevant certificates/documents are valid and verifiable.

5. All RPSL companies shall maintain proper records of the P&I/insurance certificates and the additional insurance coverage specified herein and shall produce the same before the Directorate General of Maritime Administration whenever required, and in any event within 07 working days of any such request from DGMA.

6. Any failure to comply with the above requirements shall be viewed seriously and may attract appropriate action against the concerned RPSL company in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Rules, 2016, applicable DGS Orders and other relevant provisions.

7. The provisions of this Order shall be read in conjunction with DGS Order No. 08 of 2026 dated 14.05.2026. RPSL companies shall ensure compliance with the requirements of para 3 above within 30 working days from the date of issuance of this Order in respect of Indian seafarers already deployed on vessels as on the date of this Order and shall come into force with immediate effect.

8. All concerned RPSL companies and stakeholders are directed to ensure strict compliance with the above provisions.


(Shyam Jagannathan)
(Director General of Maritime Administration)

To:

1. All RPSL Companies
2. All concerned stakeholders
3. All Indian seafarers