



## भारत सरकार/ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

# नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F. No. 7-NT(72)/2014 Date: 20.07.2020

#### DGS Order No. 21 of 2020

# Subject: <u>Standard Operating Procedure / Protocol (SOP) for repatriation of foreign seafarers from Indian ports - reg.</u>

- 1. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created a global crisis which has impacted all aspects of life and badly affected the work environment. In the maritime sector, it has severely impacted the ship to shore interactions, including crew changes.
- 2. The Directorate had issued DGS Order No. 12 of 2020 dated 22.04.2020 prescribing the Standard Operating Procedures / Protocols (SOP) for controlled crew change of Indian seafarers at Indian ports to facilitate and regulate crew change for seafarers so that the safe environment on the ship is not compromised or no contamination is brought from ship to shore.
- 3. It may be noted that appeals and statements / joint statements have been made by various international communities such as International Maritime Organisation (IMO), International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH), INTERTANKO, INTERCARGO, InterManager, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), World Shipping Council (WSC) etc. seeking the support of Governments and national authorities to facilitate crew changes, operations essential to maintain the global cargo supply chains and operations related to humanitarian aid, medical and relief flights.
- 4. Also, IMO-ICAO-ILO dated 26.05.2020 vide circular letter No.4204/Add.18 have given a joint statement on facilitation of crew changes in ports and airports in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5. To facilitate and regulate crew sign-off for foreign seafarers on board the vessels making port of calls to Indian ports in a safe manner, the Directorate hereby prescribes the following Standard Operating Procedure / Protocol (SOP) for repatriation of foreign seafarers from Indian ports for compliance by all stakeholders;

# 6. <u>Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for sign-off by foreign national seafarers at Indian ports</u>

- 1. Ensure DGS Order 12 of 2020 dated 22.04.2020 is complied with as applicable.
- 2. Ship owner / Recruitment & Placement Services (RPS) to ensure that the validity of visa issued

to foreign seafarer is adequate for their stay in India till they board International flights for travel outside India.

- a) However, instances have come to notice that the ship-owner / Recruitment and Processing Services (RPS) would not be in a position to ensure the validity of the travel documents and visa of the crew on board in respect of the vessels which are already in the sea. Hence, possibilities of crew arriving on the strength of expired passports and visas cannot be ruled out.
- b) The crew already on board without a visa cannot obtain a sticker visa from Indian Mission and therefore, the other option is to issue them e-visa online. Issue of e-visas is currently kept in abeyance. However, they would be issued with TLP for one month on the basis of valid passport facilitating their travel outside India.
- 3. In case the validity of Indian visa and / passport is less than three months from date of sign-off then all necessary efforts shall be made by the ship owner / RPS agency for renewal of passport and / visa through local embassies.
- 4. The foreign seafarers with expired Indian visa may be allowed to sign-off on the basis of issuance of TLP by local Immigration officer but subject to valid passport and valid Seaman's Identity document.
  - a) TLP with validity of up to 1 (one) month and a one-time fee of USD 40 may be given by Immigration Officer, keeping in view the requirement of the seafarer.
  - b) As per the Visa Manual, a seafarer on board of a merchant vessel can be signed off on the strength of gratis TLP for a maximum of seven days or till the return journey of the crew member to his home state, whichever is less.
  - c) A special provision has been made to issue them TLPs for up to 1 (one) month after payment of one-time fees of USD 40.
- 5. The master of a vessel, before arrival at its port of call, shall ascertain the state of health of each person on board the vessel and submit the Maritime Declaration of Health to the health authorities of the port and to the port authorities. In addition, the information required by the local health authorities of the port, like temperature chart, individual health declaration, etc. shall also be provided by the master as per the directives of the health authorities of the port. Port health authorities shall grant pratique to the vessel prior to berthing as per necessary health protocols.
- 6. Seafarer to wear necessary PPE (masks, hand gloves) on arrival.
- 7. All the luggage and personal effects of the foreign seafarers has to be disinfected at the time of disembarkation.
- 8. Seafarer will be cleared by Immigration authority at the nearest immigration center and custom authorities for luggage clearances etc. after arrival at the port.
- 9. Seafarer arriving on a vessel would undergo the COVID-19 test to confirm that he/she is negative of COVID-19. After disembarking and till the time the seafarer reaches the testing

- facility, the shipowner / RPS shall ensure that all safety precautions as per standard health protocol are observed.
- 10. Till the time test reports are received, the seafarer shall be kept under quarantine facility approved by the Port / State Health Authorities.
- 11. The seafarer tested as "positive" for COVID-19 will be dealt with as per the procedures laid down by MoHFW, Govt. of India.
- 12. Till such time international flights / VBM flights / chartered flights / connecting flights are available for the desired location / country, ship owner / RPS agency to arrange for boarding and lodging of seafarer at a safe location <sup>1</sup>.
- 13. Upon a seafarer tested as "negative", the Ship owner / RPS agency to ensure completion of the following processes if travelling by car:
  - a. Seafarer's travel route post sign-off is to be identified;
  - b. Details of the Seafarer, vehicle and driver <sup>2</sup> for the proposed travel to be uploaded on DGS website "e-pass for foreign seafarers link" for generation of e-pass (if needed);
- 14. Ship owner / RPS agency to download the e-pass and share it with local agents, seafarers and driver for the travel, if needed.
- 15. The e-pass (to and fro) will be issued for a fixed route and with specified validity and will have to be adhered to strictly.
- 16. Ship owner / RPS agency to ensure the following for taking seafarer to airport:
  - a. Vehicle being used for travel is properly sanitized and PPE (masks, hand gloves) and sanitizers made available for driver and seafarer <sup>3</sup>;
  - b. Driver and seafarer to maintain social distancing requirements as per MoHFW guidelines<sup>3</sup>;
- 17. On reaching the airport, seafarer to abide by the quarantine / isolation and health protocols as desired by airport authorities.
- 18. In addition to above, seafarer shall abide and full comply by all the concerned flag state orders pertaining to COVID-19 at all times.
- 19. This DGS order is issued with the concurrence of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Foreigners Division (Immigration Section), Govt. of India vide OM No. 25022/24/2020-Imm dated 17.07.2020.

(Amitabh Kumar) (Amitabh Kumar)

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

Enclosure(s): As above

#### **Notes:**

- Safe location is a location / place / guest house / hotel etc. where no COVID-19 case is reported till now and has
  the required amenities for the upkeep of seafarers for the required number of days of isolation / boarding and
  lodging.
- In case of change in driver, vehicle and or both, the e-pass generated needs to be cancelled by the ship owner / RPS agency & fresh e-pass to be generated.

- 3. While applying for e-pass online in DG Shipping Egovernance portal, Ship owner / RPS agency to give declaration that vehicle is properly sanitized & PPE (masks, sanitizers etc.) in place and driver & seafarer would maintain the social distancing requirements as per MoHFW guidelines.
- 4. All necessary arrangements and facilities at ports in accordance with the guidelines of MoHFW will be made by the port authorities concerned.
- 5. The entire cost of transportation, stay and logistics etc. of seafarers will be borne by the ship owner / RPS agency.
- 6. Ship owner / RPS agency to make necessary arrangements and ensure that the signing-off foreign seafarer is in possession of valid stay and travel insurance policy as applicable.
- 7. The cost of daily subsistence allowance (including accommodation), transport, visa application/ extension assistance and cost, passport application/extension assistance and cost, access to medical treatment for existing morbidities or for any COVID 19 infected cases and its cost need to be borne by ship owner / RPSL agency.
- 8. Authenticity of the E-pass is verifiable online in www.dgshipping.gov.in
- 9. In case of any difficulty is faced en-route for signing-off, the seafarer may contact any of the following:
  - a) Contact details of e-pass issuing authority as mentioned under section in "pass details" /
  - b) DG Comm. center (022-22614646) /
  - c) Capt. (Dr.) A. Daniel J Joseph, Dy. DG [Tech. / Crew / COVID-19] (danieljohn-dgs@gov.in)
- 10. Daily record keeping form for seafarer Annexure I
- 11. The detailed process for generation of e-pass for foreign seafarers by RPS is detailed in Annexure II
- 12. Notwithstanding above permissions for crew change; the owners, operators, Master and signing-off crew of the vessel shall ensure that at all times they shall comply with all applicable relevant orders of Govt. of India and such permission shall not cause any danger to person, property or the environment.

(Amitabh Kumar)

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

# **DAILY CREW RECORDS FOR COVID-19**

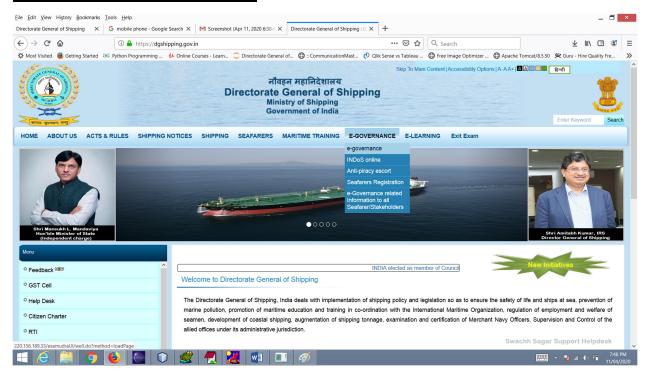
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## Annexure - II

## Process of Generation of e-pass for foreign seafarers only:

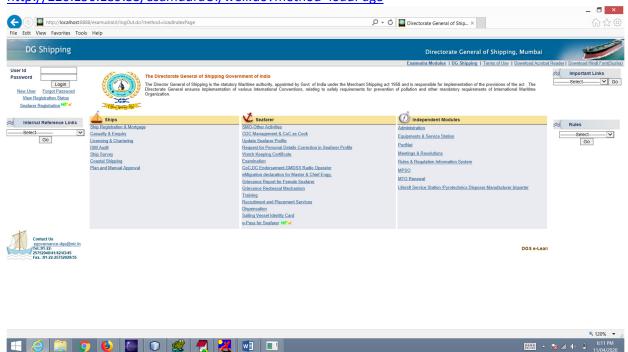
- 1. Login to E-Governance system by using User Id and Password provided by DG Shipping for e-pass generation of foreign seafarers. ( www.dgshipping.gov.in →E-Governance)
- 2. Go to the link -> e-pass for non-Seafarer->e-pass ->Generate / Cancel e-pass
- 3. Click submit application and select "Disembarkation" from dropdown and click "Continue" button.
- 4. Select Rank as "foreign seafarers" and continue filling all mandatory fields with required data and upload photo, passport copies, declaration and travel history and submit.
- 5. Upon submission of data, system would display "Reference No." and the application would be sent to the Issuing Authority at DG Shipping for approval.
- 6. The designated e-pass issuing authority may approve / reject the e-pass on the system using his / her administrators ID provided by DGS.
- 7. On approval of the application by authority, e-pass would be generated and available in Ship owner / RPS agency profile for download. System would send an auto intimation email with the details of e-pass generated to Ship owner / RPS agency designated registered email id.
- 8. Ship owner / RPS agency may print the e-pass which is available at their profile at the link "View Application Status"
- 9. e-pass can be verified in the e-pass checker link available on DG Shipping website www.dgshipping.gov.in
- 10. Ship owner / RPS agency may utilize the option of "Cancel e-pass" for cancellation of e-pass

#### Step 1: visit www.dgshipping.gov.in

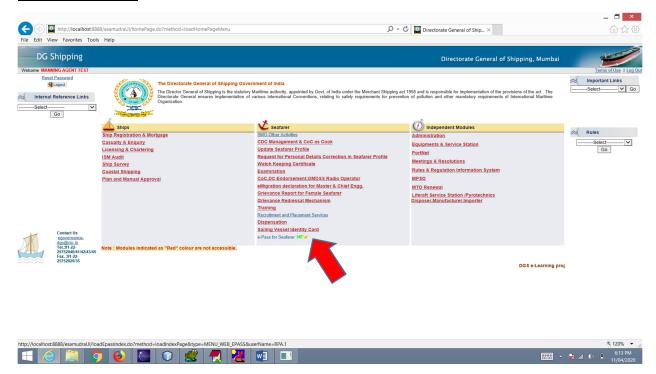


# Step 2: Log in using user id / password (after clicking 'e-governance' tab)

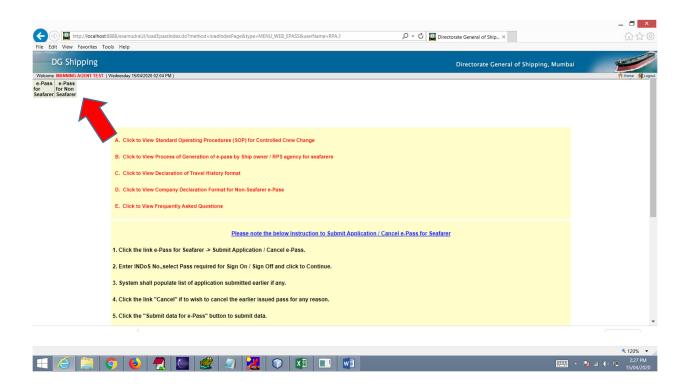
http://220.156.189.33/esamudraUI/well.do?method=loadPage



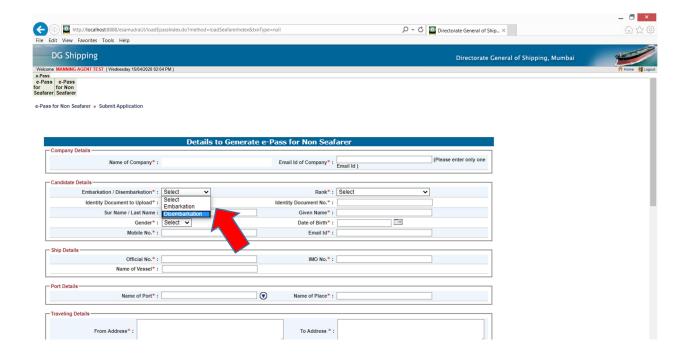
# Step 3: Logged in



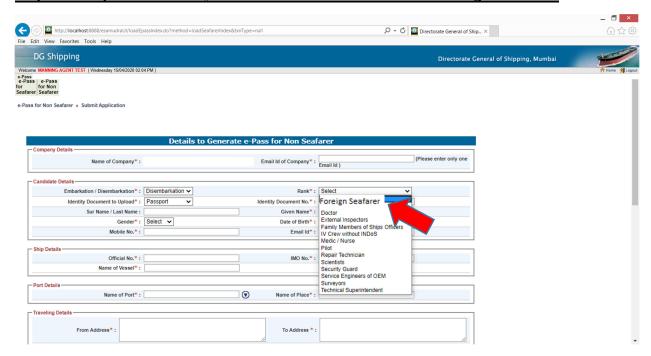
# Step 4: Click "e-pass for non-seafarer" and click "submit" option



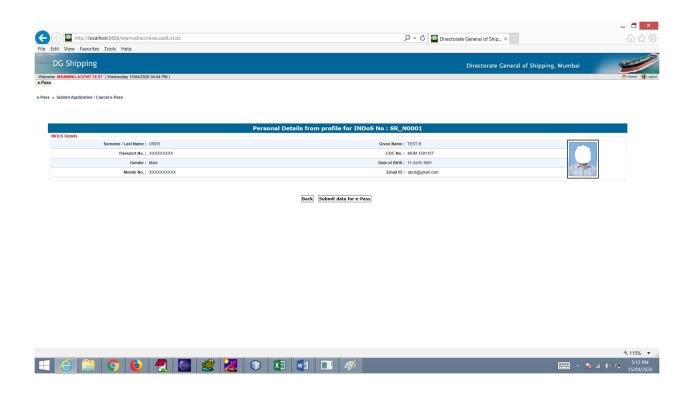
#### **Step 5: Chose option (Disembarkation)**



# Step 6: Fill up all mandatory details and also choose Rank as "foreign seafarer"



# Step 7: Fill up all required data mandatory details and upload photo, passport copy, annexure II with contract & travel history doc & submit



# Step 8: Once data is submitted (Note down the Ref. no.)



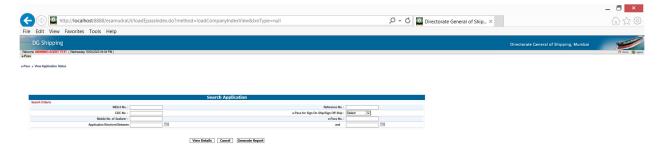
## **Step 9: Track status of application**

# View submitted application, e-Pass and generate reports:

1. Go to the link -> e-Pass for Non-Seafarer->e-Pass -> Submit Application / Cancel e-Pass

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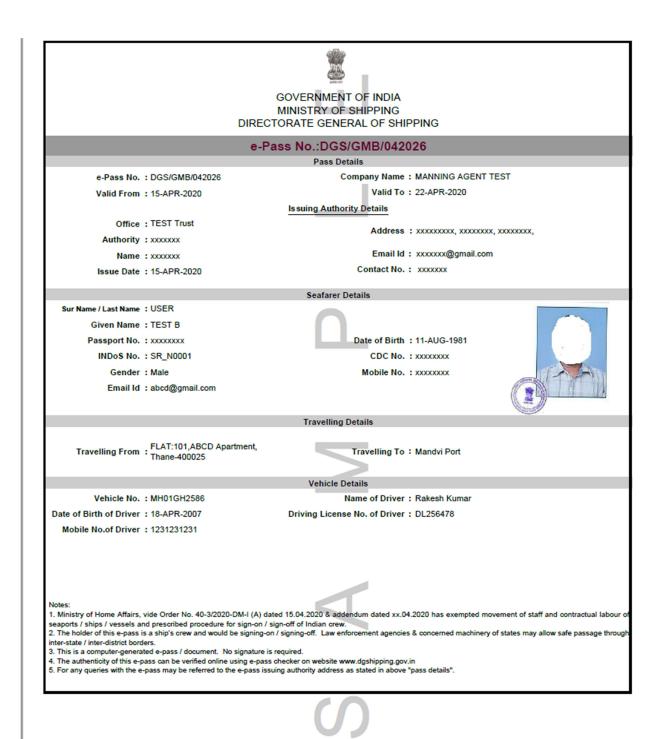
Go to the link -> e-Pass for non-Seafarer->e-Pass -> View Application Status



# Step 10: Status of application can be tracked with ref. no.



# Step 11: Ship owner / RPS agency may download e-pass from system, once e-pass application status shows approved (auto email notification would be also received to registered email id)



Sample e-pass copy

#### **Step 12: Cancellation of e-Pass**

- 1. After log in, go to e-Pass for non-Seafarer->e-Pass -> Submit Application / Cancel e-Pass
- 2. Enter Reference no. or seafarers name and select disembarkation from dropdown and Continue.
- 3. System will populate the list of application submitted.
- 4. Click the cancel link and enter the remarks for cancel and submit.
- 5. Upon cancellation system shall send auto intimation of email about the same.

