



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

F.No.: 23-POL/11/2025-CREW-DGS (C. No. 37808)

Date: 11.12.2025

DGS Circular 55 of 2025

**Seafarers Advisory on Avoiding Fraud, Cheating & Unauthorized
Recruitment during Employment**

The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), Government of India, has noted with serious concern the increasing number of complaints received from seafarers who have been cheated, misled, or financially exploited by unauthorized recruitment and placement agents under the pretext of offering jobs on foreign-flagged vessels.

2. Common issues reported include:

- 2.1. Lack of support during accidents, injuries, medical emergencies, or stranding.
- 2.2. No intervention in wage or compensation disputes.
- 2.3. Avoidance of responsibility in case of demise of the seafarer, including failure to arrange mortal remains or compensation.
- 2.4. Jurisdictional limitations for DGS in cases involving unauthorized channels.
- 2.5. Sea service obtained through unregistered agents is invalid and cannot be uploaded in the DGS e-governance system.

3. Seafarers are strongly advised to avoid unauthorized agencies and ensure placement only through registered RPSL companies listed on www.dgshipping.gov.in. Additional precautions must be taken to avoid impersonation of registered RPSLs and to regularly check Master Checker for sea service updates.

4. Seafarers and their parents are advised to exercise utmost caution and verify the real-time status of any Recruitment and Placement Services Licence (RPSL) company before initiating any form of interaction. The Directorate General of Shipping has made available a live and continuously updated system on its website, displaying whether an RPSL is valid, invalid, or temporarily blocked. It is essential that seafarers engage only with Valid RPSL companies. No interaction, submission of documents, acceptance of employment offers, or financial transaction should be carried out with Invalid or Temporarily Blocked RPSL companies, as doing so exposes seafarers to substantial risks and leaves them without regulatory protection.

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बीटा बिल्डिंग, 9वीं मंजिल, आई थिंक टेक्नो कैंपस, कांजूर मार्ग (पूर्व), मुंबई - 400 042

Beta Building, 9th Flr., I-Think Techno Campus, Kanjur Marg (E) / Mumbai - 42

फोन/Tel.: 91-22-25752040/1/2/3, फैक्स/Fax.: 91-22-25752029/35 ई-मेल/E-mail : dgship-dgs@nic.in वेबसाइट /Website: www.dgshipping.gov.in

Detailed verification steps are provided in **Annex I** and must be followed before proceeding with any employment-related activities.

5. All seafarers joining a vessel are further required to carry a printed Form-1/1A/1B issued exclusively by a Valid RPSL company. This Form-1 must be genuine, accurate, and system-generated, as immigration authorities will accept only duly issued and verifiable documents. Any altered, handwritten, or unofficially issued Form-1 will be rejected at the airport.

6. In addition, the Protector General of Emigrants (PGoE) has linked the Emigrant Application Reference Number (ARN) with the seafarer's passport number, and immigration authorities now verify this linkage live at the point of departure. Any mismatch, inconsistency, or fraudulent ARN will result in the seafarer being off-loaded and may also invite legal action. Therefore, seafarers must ensure that their Form-1/1A/1B is issued correctly and that the ARN is valid and accurately reflects their passport details. (Detailed verification steps are provided in **Annex II**).

7. Seafarers are strongly cautioned against engaging with unauthorized or unregistered intermediaries. They must refrain from paying money for job placement, handing over their passport or CDC to unknown individuals, or accepting employment offers through WhatsApp, social media platforms, or other informal channels. Travelling without proper documentation or relying on unauthorized agencies increases the likelihood of exploitation, non-payment of wages, abandonment abroad, and severe immigration violations.

8. To safeguard themselves, seafarers must independently verify the RPSL status online, confirm the authenticity of Form-1/1A/1B, ensure correct emigrant reference number (ARN) passport linkage, retain copies of all employment documents, and promptly report any suspicious activity to the Directorate General of Shipping or local police authorities. Failure to follow these precautions and engaging through unauthorized channels may lead to serious consequences, including being off-loaded at the airport, denial of compensation or insurance benefits, invalidation of sea service records in the DGS e-governance system, lack of legal recourse in disputes, blacklisting, and potential criminal proceedings.

9. Accordingly, all maritime stakeholders, especially maritime training institutes, approved recruitment and placement agencies, seafarers' unions, shipping companies, and ship owners' associations—are advised to widely disseminate this information and ensure strict compliance with the updated procedures so as to prevent seafarers from falling prey to unethical practices.

10. For any support, clarification, or to report fraudulent recruitment activities, seafarers may contact the Directorate General of Shipping at support.dgs@gov.in and crews-dgs@gov.in, or through the official phone/WhatsApp numbers +91 90040 48406 and +91 86575 49760.

This issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Government of India.


(Capt. PC Meena)

Deputy Director General of Shipping (Crew)

Annex - I

Procedure to Verify RPSL Status

1. Visit <https://www.dgshipping.gov.in>

Advisery on avoiding

www.dgshipping.gov.in

नौवहन महानिदेशालय
Directorate General of Shipping
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Government of India

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Exit Exam

NOTIFICATION

- Advisory for seafarers*
- *Sea-ries No 3 - Safe seafaring & secure career planning*
- *Sea-ries No 4 - Seafarers rights at sea*
- *Sea-ries No 5 - ST*

Menu

- Annual Fuel Consumption Report for 2019 and 2020
- RPS Agencies
- Related Links
- National Shipping Board
- Vacancy Notices

Swachh Sagar

Welcome to Directorate General of Shipping

Contact points for seafarers -
Crisis / Grievance Redressal Mechanism

The Directorate General of Shipping, India deals with implementation of shipping policy and legislation so as to ensure the safety of life and ships at sea, prevention of marine pollution, promotion of maritime education and training in co-ordination with the International Maritime Organization, regulation of employment and welfare of seamen, development of coastal shipping, augmentation of shipping tonnage, examination and certification of Merchant Navy Officers, Supervision and Control of the allied offices under its administrative jurisdiction.

Performance Dashboard of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

2. Navigate to Menu → RPS Agencies

www.dgshipping.gov.in/Content/RPSAgencies.aspx

Home >> RPS Agencies

VISIT NOW
OUR NEW WEBSITE

Menu

- Grievance Redressal Mechanism
- COVID-19 dashboard
- Help Desk and Social Media Cell
- Citizen Charter
- RTI
- Green & Sustainable Shipping
- Shipping Manual
- Vigilance contact
- Casualty Branch
- CDC Checker
- COC Checker
- INDoS / COP Checker

RPS Agencies

List of Agents having Licence Recruitment and Placement Services.

Advisory to all Registered Recruiting RPSLs - reg.

Withdrawal Orders-

- 1.GALILEE SEA SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
- 2.M/s. Deep Horizen Marine Pvt. Ltd
- 3.M/s. BND Yaat Ship Management Pvt. Ltd
- 4.KSM NAVIGATION PRIVATE LIMITED
- 5.M/s. Maa Sharda Marine Services Private Limited
- 6.M/s Wave Crest
- 7.M/s Speedstar

3. Click on List of Agents having License recruitment and placement services

Valid RPSL List Invalid RPSL List Temporary Blocked RPSL List

Valid RPSL List

Valid RPSL List											
Sr No	Name	License No	Issue Date	Expiry Date	Address	District	City	State	Phone	Fax	Email
1	APOLLO CREW MANAGEMENT INDIA PRIVATE LTD.	RPSL-CHN-003	23/12/2021	23/12/2026	34/695, Kanuvellil Road/PalarivattomCochin - 682025	ERNAKULAM	COCHIN	KERALA	2339584	2339584	crewmanagement.india@apolloma

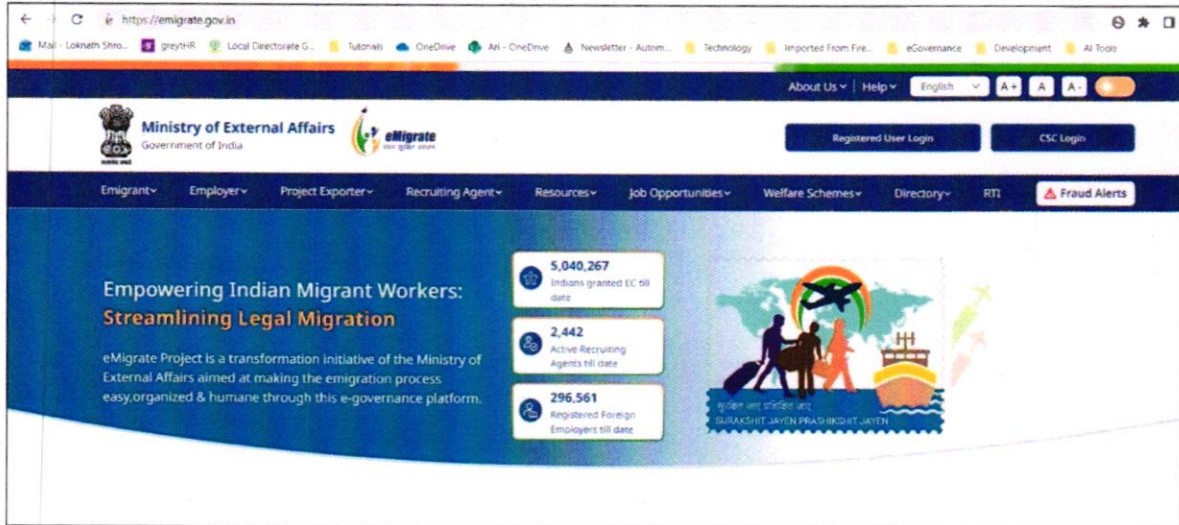
4. Click through valid RPSL List, Invalid Rpsl list and Temporary blocked RPSL Lis and view live status (Valid/Invalid/Blocked)

Annex – II

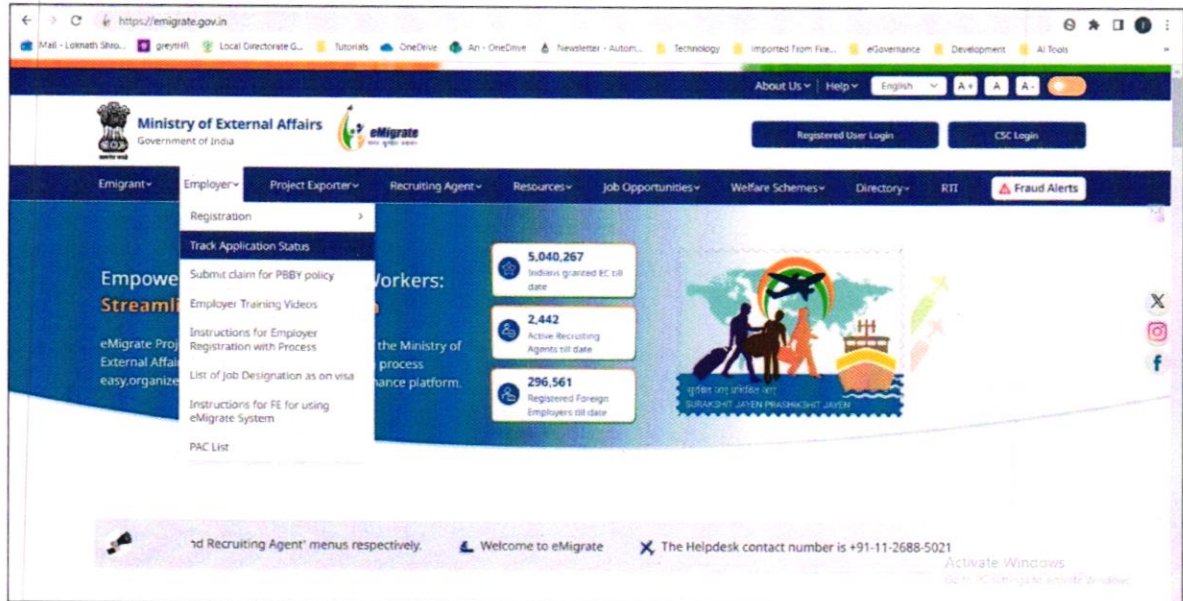
Procedure to Verify Emigrant ARN Linked with Passport

Instructions to check the status of the Application Reference Number (eMigrate Reference Number)

Step 1: Go to <https://emigrate.gov.in>



Step 2: Navigate to Employer -> Track Application Status.



Step 3: Enter Application Reference Number (eMigrate Reference Number), Captcha and click the button 'Validate' to check the status.

Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

Registered User Login CSC Login

Emigrant Employer Project Exporter Recruiting Agent Resources Job Opportunities Welfare Schemes Directory RTI Fraud Alerts

Track Application Status

Fields marked with * (asterisk) are mandatory. To avoid mistakes, please refer guidelines & instructions

Track Status

Application Reference Number *
Application Reference Number

Captcha *
Enter Captcha

Reset Validate