

D.G. Shipping Order No. 2 of 2006

No. 49-NT(1)/2005

January 24, 2006

Sub: Operation of Inland Barges beyond Inland Water Limits and upto the port limits at Goa.

The operation of Inland barges operating beyond the Inland water limits and upto the port limits of Mormugao & Panaji was carefully examined in the Directorate.

Barges registered under Inland Vessels Act are required to operate within the Inland Water Limits only. However, due to the nature of trade at Goa, inland barges have been venturing beyond the Inland Water limits and up to the port limits of Mormugao and Panaji. This is not only in contravention of the provisions of the act, but has also resulted in some unfortunate incidents including loss of life, loss of property and damage to marine environment.

To ensure that such operations are carried out safely, barges desiring to operate beyond the Inland Water limits and upto the port limits of Mormugao and Panaji are to comply with the requirements given below. This is in supercession of all previous orders / letters / instructions on the subject.

1. All such barges should be in possession of valid Certificate of Survey issued under the Inland Vessels Act.

2. All such barges are required to have a valid certificate of class issued by a recognized Classification Society. The certificate of class issued by the Classification Society should clearly specify that the structural strength of the barge is sufficient for ship to shore operations beyond

inland water limits but within the port limits and in significant wave heights of upto 2 metres.

3. All such barges should be in possession of a valid Load line Certificate issued by the Directorate General of Shipping or the Indian Register of Shipping on behalf of the Directorate for this operation. This loadline shall be in addition to the loadline assigned under Inland Vessels Act and its rules. The barge shall utilize the appropriate loadline depending upon its area of operation.

4. All such barges shall:

4.1 be fitted with fixed VHF set having 25-Watt capacity.

4.2 be provided with an approved liferaft capable of accommodating all the persons on board the barge. The liferaft may be an inflatable liferaft or a rigid liferaft. The barges shall also be provided with adequate number of approved Life jackets and Life buoys.

4.3 be provided with bilge pumping out arrangement to ensure that at least two independent pumps of adequate capacity are available for pumping out the bilge spaces.

4.4 have adequate navigational equipment including appropriate navigational lights and shapes for the safe operation of these barges.

4.5 be provided with a compass so that the vessel can be safely navigated at all times.

4.6 have adequate insurance cover for wreck removal and oil pollution liability

- 4.7 be manned with personnel having adequate qualification for operation of barge beyond inland water limits and up to the port limits
- 4.8 be provided with adequate number of fans in the crew cabins.
5. All such barges shall carry out ship to shore operation within the port limits of Mormugao and Panaji only during the fair weather season. If the weather conditions deteriorate at any time during the fair weather period, the barges shall immediately return to the safety of the Inland waters.

These requirements shall come into force with effect from **1st April 2006**. Barges that do not comply with these requirements shall not be permitted to operate beyond the Inland Water Limits.

The Director General of Shipping and Secretary to the Government of India, in exercise of the powers under Section 456 of Merchant Shipping Acts 1958 delegated to him vide S.O. 3144 dated 17th December 1960 exempts such Inland barges undertaking ship to shore operation within the Port limits of Mormugao and Panaji from the other requirements specified in the Merchant Shipping Act and the rules framed thereunder.

The Mercantile Marine Department or the Indian Register of Shipping shall issue every such barge with an endorsement confirming that it complies with the aforesaid requirements. If the Indian Register of Shipping gives the endorsement, a copy of the same shall be forwarded to the Mercantile Marine Department at Mormugao.

A copy of this endorsement, the Certificate of Survey, Certificate of Class and the Loadline Certificate shall be displayed in the prominent place on the barge. The Captain of Ports, Government of Goa, the Dy. Conservator Mormugao Port Trust and the Mercantile Marine Department at Mormugao

shall ensure that only barges having such endorsement are permitted to operate beyond the IV Limits and upto the port limits at Mormugao and Panaji in fair weather condition.

This is issued with the approval of Director General of Shipping & Secretary to the Government of India.

Sd/-
(Capt. K.P. Jayakumar)
Nautical Surveyor- cum-Dy. Director-General of Shipping

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