



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

N.T. BRANCH CIRCULAR NO: NT/ISPS/SHIP/32/2026

File No: 25-104/46/2024-NT - DGS

Date: 23.06.2026

Subject: Guidelines for specification and deployment of patrol boats within port limits towards ISPS Compliance

In supersession of N.T. Branch Circular No. NT/ISPS/SHIP/03/2009 dated 6th March 2009, along with its subsequent addendums dated 02.04.2012 and 26.10.2023, the Directorate General of Shipping hereby issues the following guidelines relating to specification and deployment of patrol boats within port limits.

In view of representations received from stakeholders regarding deployment of patrol boats for waterside surveillance, and with a view to ensure uniformity in specifications for patrol boats across ports, the Directorate hereby lays down the following guidelines / specifications.

The guidelines / specifications stated below are minimum, and all ports shall identify their requirements considering the expanse of port limits and prevailing weather conditions, for justifying any upgraded criteria beyond the minimum specified requirements.

Accordingly, the following specifications for patrol boats are hereby prescribed:

1. Registration & Classification of Patrol boats:

1.1 Patrol Boats shall be registered under the applicable provisions of the Indian Vessels Act (I.V. Act) or the Merchant Shipping Act (M.S. Act), as applicable, and shall be classed with an IACS Member Classification Society.

1.2 Based on the area of operation, the following IRS-equivalent notations shall be considered for classification.

(a) For vessels registered under the I.V. Act, as applicable (for operation withing I.V. limits only):

(SWASTIKA) IWL, HSLC/LC, PATROL, RS2/RS3, “FOR OPERATION WITHIN PORT LIMITS”,

(SWASTIKA) IY

(b) For vessels registered under the M.S. Act, as applicable (for operation beyond I.V. Limits):

(SWASTIKA) SUL, PATROL, HSLC/LC, RS0,

(SWASTIKA) IY

1.3 The classification notation requirements prescribed under Clause 1 shall apply to patrol boats whose keel is laid on or after the date of issuance of this Circular.

1.4 Patrol boats already in service or under construction prior to the date of issuance of this Circular may continue to operate under their existing classification arrangements, subject to compliance with the applicable statutory and classification requirements. Such vessels shall comply with the prescribed classification notation requirements upon major modification, replacement, renewal, or as otherwise directed by the Administration.

1.5 In addition to compliance with the applicable Classification Rules, Patrol Boats shall also comply with the relevant statutory and operational requirements pertaining to the following:

2. Hull Requirements:

2.1. Shall have Gun Mounting Facility at Forward; (As per CISF requirements);

2.2. Side windows shall be sliding type and bulletproof / Shatter proof material;

3. Machinery and Electrical Requirements

3.1. Main propulsion power to achieve / Max. Speed at 90% MCR (Calm seas & no tide);

3.2 Twin Screw Diesel Engine stem drive or conventional direct shaft drive propulsion system or equivalent to attain speed at least 20 knots; (The Engine Power (BHP) may be decided by the Manufacturer). Use of outboard motor drive is not acceptable.

3.3 For patrol boats already in service, a speed reduction of up to 10% from the prescribed minimum speed may be permitted by the Administration, subject to the vessel being maintained in seaworthy condition and continuing to meet the operational and security requirements of the port.

3.4 Shore Power Connection and Cable;

3.5. Air Conditioner;

4. **Miscellaneous Requirements:**

4.1. Endurance for approximately 8 hours in the area of operation;

4.2. Carrying capacity 12 Persons;

4.3. All Patrol Boats shall be painted in white color with red colored stripes/markings to ensure clear identification and distinction from other crafts operating within the area

5. **Statutory Compliance & Certification:**

5.1. All Patrol Boats shall comply with the statutory certification requirements applicable to the assigned class notation and shall meet all relevant GOI or IV Authority Regulations, Rules, and Orders, as amended

6. **Risk and threat assessment of the port facility:**

6.1 The number of patrol boats required shall be based on the risk and threat assessment of the port facility, as identified in the Port Facility Security Assessment (PFSA), in accordance with applicable provisions of the ISPS framework.

6.2 The requirement for deployment and operation of patrol boats shall be deliberated in the Port Facility Security Advisory Committee (PFSAC) / relevant port security committee and suitably incorporated in the Port Facility Security Plan (PFSP).

6.3 In respect of EXIM ports, patrol boats shall be deployed in accordance with the prescribed requirements under the ISPS framework, and the same shall be incorporated in the PFSP during the next revision.

6.4 In respect of non-EXIM ports, the requirement of patrol boats may be determined based on risk and threat assessment, as decided by the PFSAC, considering the security requirements of the port.

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nitin Mukesh', is positioned above the printed name.

Capt. Nitin Mukesh
Dy. Nautical Advisor-cum Senior DDG (T)