



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

समुद्रीय प्रशासन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, MUMBAI

F. No. 15-13011/3/2025-MSL - DGS (C.No. 34379)

Dated: 02.09.26

DGMA Circular 55 of 2026

Whereas the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 has come into force with effect from 15th March, 2026, thereby repealing the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

2. Whereas sub-section (2) of section 324 of the MS Act, 2025 states that any rule, regulation, bye-law, order, notification or exemption made, issued or granted under any repealed enactment shall, until revoked, have effect as if it had been made, issued or granted under the provisions of the MS Act, 2025.

3. Whereas the Coastal Shipping Act, 2025 has also come into force with effect from 15th March, 2026.

4. Whereas clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (2) of section 42 of the CS Act, 2025 states that any order, exemption, license granted under Part XIV of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 shall continue to be in effect until revoked.

5. Now therefore, in order to ensure uninterrupted shipping operations and to facilitate ease of doing business in the backdrop of the current situation, the existing exemptions which include following exemptions, granted under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 shall continue to be in force after the enactment of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 and the Coastal Shipping Act, 2025.

Sr. No.	Existing relaxation/exemption under Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 pertaining to coastal shipping
(1)	(2)
1	General Order No. 1 of 2018 dated 21.05.2028 (Relaxation for coastal movement of EXIM Transshipment Containers and Empty Containers by foreign vessels)
2	General Order No. 2 of 2018 dated 22.05.2018 (Relaxation for coastal movement of Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, and Animal Husbandry commodities by foreign vessels)
3	General Order No. 3 dated 22.06.2018 (Relaxation under Section 407 for the coastal movement of Fertilizers by foreign flag vessels)
4	Notification dated 21.05.2018 (Relaxation under Section 406 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, for coastal movement of EXIM Transshipment Containers and Empty Containers by foreign flagged vessels chartered by Indian entities)

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9वीं मंजिल, बीटा बिल्डिंग, आई थिंक टेक्नो कैंपस, कांजुर गाँव रोड, कांजुरमार्ग (पूर्व), मुंबई - 400042

9th Floor, Beta Building, I-Think Techno Campus, Kanjur Village Road, Kanjurmarg (E), Mumbai - 400042.

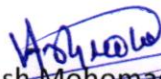
फोन/Tel No.: +91-22-2575 2040/1/2/3 फ़ैक्स/Fax.: +91-22-25752029/35 ई-मेल/Email: dgship-dgs@nic.in वेबसाइट/Website: www.dgma.gov.in

5	Notification dated 22.05.2018 (Relaxation under Section 406 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, for coastal movement of agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and animal husbandry commodities by foreign flagged vessels chartered by Indian entities)
6	Order No. SW-17011/8/2018-MG(C.No. 334173) dated 14.11.2019 issued by Ministry of Ports, Shipping, Ports and Waterways (Extension of cabotage relaxation under section 407(3) of MS Act, 1958 to foreign flag passenger/cruise ships to call at more than one Indian port for a further period of five years beyond 05.02.2024 i.e. up to 04.02.2029).
7	Gazette Notification S.O. 1767 dated 27.05.1963 (Exemption for foreign flag ships chartered by Indian citizen/ company from the provisions of section 406(1) of the Act, for voyages other than coastal trade.

6. This is intended to provide regulatory clarity and facilitate the smooth implementation of the new legislative framework.

7. This issues with the approval of the Director General of Maritime Administration, Govt of India.

Yours faithfully,


(Ash Mohamad)

Deputy Director General of Shipping [MSL]

To
All Stakeholders, through DGMA website.