



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

E-File No. 23-RPS/21/2026-CREW-DGS (C No. 43670)

Date: 13.10.2026

DGMA CIRCULAR NO. 68 OF 2026

Subject: Launch of the Enhanced Recruitment and Placement Service License (RPSL) Module and Discontinuation of Separate e-Migrate Access for Non-Seafarers under Merchant Shipping Notice No. 02 of 2018. – Regarding

The Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) is continuously undertaking the digitisation and upgradation of its online systems to enhance operational efficiency, transparency and ease of service delivery. In this regard, the existing Recruitment and Placement Service License (RPSL) Module has been upgraded and enhanced to provide a streamlined, transparent, user-friendly and digitally integrated platform for managing recruitment and placement-related services.

2. Accordingly, the following is hereby notified for the information, guidance and compliance of all the concerned stakeholders:

2.1 Launch of the Enhanced RPSL Module:

The enhanced RPSL Module, initially being launched in Beta version, shall become operational with effect from **15 October 2026**. The following applications and services shall be made available to users through the enhanced module:

- i. Application for the grant of a fresh Recruitment and Placement Service License;
- ii. Application for a unified license covering recruitment and placement activities relating to seafarers and the applicable non-seafarer/technician categories;
- iii. Renewal of the Recruitment and Placement Service License;
- iv. Annual inspection of licensed Recruitment and Placement Services;
- v. Initial, renewal, special and other inspections, as applicable;
- vi. Applications for change in the name of a licensed Recruitment and Placement Service;
- vii. Applications for change in the place of business or address of a licensed Recruitment and Placement Service;
- viii. Applications for changes in top management, wherever such functionality is enabled;
- ix. Creation and management of profiles of Recruitment and Placement Service License (RPSL) holders and shipping companies; and

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x. Correction and update of profiles and associated records by shipping companies and RPS agencies, including those with valid, invalid, suspended, withdrawn or temporarily blocked status, subject to the applicable status, system permissions and prescribed procedures.

2.2 Rollout of e-Migrate Consent and Digital Seafarers' Employment Agreement Facilities:

The following facilities are scheduled to be rolled out for stakeholders with effect from **01st November 2026**:

- i. E-Migrate Consent for Joining Ship in respect of foreign-flag vessels;
- ii. Digital Seafarers' Employment Agreement in respect of Indian-flag vessels.

Note: Until further instructions are issued by the DGMA, all the shipping companies and RPS agencies shall continue to follow the existing procedures for the opening of Articles of Agreement / Form I, as applicable.

Existing RPS Agencies shall be granted access to generate Form 1B i.e. access to e-migrate non-seafarers presently available to entities having access under Merchant Shipping Notice No. 02 of 2018 dated 16 January 2018.

2.3 Discontinuation of Separate e-Migrate Access for Non-Seafarers under Merchant Shipping Notice No. 02 of 2018:

- i. With immediate effect, the facility for grant of separate e-Migrate authorisation for non-seafarer categories under Merchant Shipping Notice No. 02 of 2018 dated 16 January 2018 shall be discontinued. Accordingly, **no fresh applications for separate e-Migrate authorisation under the aforesaid Merchant Shipping Notice shall be accepted.**
- ii. Entities other than existing RPSL holders currently holding authorisations under Merchant Shipping Notice No. 02 of 2018 are requested for transition to the licensing framework through the enhanced RPSL Module, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Rules, 2026 within a period of three (03) Months from the date of issuance of this circular.
- iii. Companies, firms, proprietorships and other entities intending to recruit, place or deploy technicians, supernumeraries, surveyors, ship-security personnel or any other prescribed non-seafarer category on foreign-flag vessels shall apply for the appropriate license through the enhanced RPSL Module.
- iv. Such entities shall comply with all applicable licensing, inspection, bank guarantee, fee, reporting and other requirements prescribed under the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Rules, 2026, and the directions issued by the Directorate from time to time.
- v. The recruitment, placement, deployment and applicable e-Migrate processing of such non-seafarer categories shall be undertaken through the profile of the duly licensed entity in the enhanced RPSL Module, in accordance with the applicable provisions and procedures.


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3. All concerned stakeholders are hereby advised to take note of the above provisions and ensure strict compliance with the requirements and timelines stipulated in this Circular and the applicable rules, notices and directions issued by the Directorate.
4. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


13.10.2026

(Capt. Bipin Kumar)
Deputy Director General of Maritime Administration (Crew)
Directorate General of Maritime Administration

Copy to:

1. The Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Departments, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Kandla and Kochi.
2. The Shipping Master, Shipping Offices, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.
3. The Director, Seamen's Employment Offices, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.
4. Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society, Mumbai.
5. Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation, Mumbai.
6. E-Governance Branch, for necessary system implementation and related action.
7. All holders of Recruitment and Placement Service Licenses.
8. All shipping companies and shipowners.
9. All entities presently holding separate e-Migrate authorisations for non-seafarer/technician categories.
10. Recognised and inspecting organisations.
11. All concerned stakeholders, through publication on the DGMA website.