No. 12/Genl/Tech/PMB
पतन प्रबंध बोर्ड/ PORT MANAGEMENT BOARD
अण्डमान तथा निकोबार द्वीपसमूह/ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

Port Blair, dated 19th March, 2020

CIRCULAR COVID - 19

In view of the prevailing scenario and to contain the spread of Corona Virus in A&N Islands, the following directives are to be implemented with immediate effect for strict compliance at all A&N Ports and all ships entering A&N Islands:

1. Passenger Handling by DSS:
   - All Masters of DSS vessels are to strictly comply with MS Notice 02 of 2020 of DG Shipping to contain the spread of corona virus.
   - Passenger occupancy in DSS vessels will be restricted to 50% of their carrying capacity in all sectors so that safe distance is maintained between passengers.
   - Travel by Non-Islander passengers in DSS vessels to be restricted.
   - All passenger vessels/ offices/ ticketing counters are to be sanitised regularly.
   - **Need based service of DSS vessels across all sectors to be implemented.**
   - Special teams are to be constituted for crowd management at all ticketing counters and Jetties.

2. Cargo Handling:

   2.1 **Cargo Vessel from Indian Ports:**
   - The vessel is to be brought to inner anchorage on arrival.
   - The PHO/MO i/c at the respective Port will thereafter certify the vessel as Healthy or Suspected and issue a Certificate in this regard to PMB.
   - Certified Healthy vessels will be given clearance for Port Operations and Suspected vessel will be kept at anchorage for facilitating boarding of the PHO/MO i/c for further necessary action.
   - No crew will be allowed to disembark until 14 days have elapsed. The crew can disembark on expiry of 14 days only after subsequent clearance by the PHO/MO i/c of the respective Port.
• Cargo discharge is to be permitted after the vessel has been declared Healthy and on receipt of **Ship Sanitation Certificate, Medicine Chest Certificate & Evidence Report Form (ERF)**, if issued, on the sanitary control measures undertaken in the previous ports and also a declaration that the cargo on board has been disinfected from Master of the vessel.

• **Before discharge of cargo (Container/Bulk/Break bulk), it is to be ensured that the same is disinfected.**

• The Stevedoring Agencies are directed to use **Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)** while engaging their employees for cargo handling.

• Port Authorities are to ensure that the Stevedoring Labourers handling cargo **do not come in contact** with the crew on Board.

2.2 **Cargo Vessel from International Ports:**

• On arrival, the vessel will be kept at outer anchorage till completion of **14 days** from last international Port of departure (**Mandatory Quarantine**)
  
  • The PHO/MO i/c at the respective Port are to certify the vessel as **Healthy** or **Suspected** and issue a Certificate in this regard to PMB.

  • Certified **Healthy Vessel Certificate** will be given clearance for Port Operations and **Suspected** vessel will be kept at anchorage for facilitating boarding of the PHO/MO i/c for further necessary action.

  • No crew will be allowed to disembark until **14 days** have elapsed. The crew can disembark on expiry of **14 days** only after subsequent clearance by the PHO/MO i/c of the respective Port.

• Cargo discharge is to be only permitted after the vessel has been declared Healthy and on receipt of **Ship Sanitation Certificate, Medicine Chest Certificate & Evidence Report Form (ERF)**, if issued, on the sanitary control measures undertaken in the previous ports and also a declaration that the cargo on board has been disinfected from the Master of the vessel.

• **Before discharge of cargo (Container/Bulk/Break bulk), it is to be ensured that the same is disinfected.**

• The Stevedoring Agencies are directed to use **PPE** while engaging their employees for cargo handling.

• Port Authorities are to ensure that the Stevedoring Labourers handling cargo **do not come in contact** with the crew on Board.

3. **Pilots.** All Pilot Officers will board the vessel with **PPE** and are directed **not to have** any physical contact with any member of the crew on Board. All communication is to be restricted to **VHF**.
4. **Cleaning Crew.** Cleaning Crew and Shore supporting staff are to be permitted on board only with **PPE.**

5. **Cargo Handling Equipment.** All Cargo Handling Equipment will be sanitized before and after operations.

6. **Passenger Handling by Port:**
   - All vessels from International Ports are suspended till further orders.
   - Master of the vessels are to provide **Ship Sanitation Certificate, Medicine Chest Certificate & Evidence Report Form (ERF)** if issued on the sanitary control measures undertaken in the previous ports.
   - All passengers (Islanders) and crew arriving from Mainland will be screened at the respective Ports of Disembarkation by the Medical Authorities.

   [Signature]
   **Chief Port Administrator**
   **Port Management Board**

**Copy to:**

1. Secretary (Sh) for information please.
2. Secretary (Health) for information please.
3. Deputy Commissioner (South, North & Middle and Car Nicobar)
5. Port Health Officer for strict compliance.
6. Dy Director (Sh) for information and dissemination
7. Harbour Master, PMB for information and dissemination.
8. Manager (Cargo/PS&O/Stevedoring) for information and necessary action
9. Port Control Tower, Chatham.