

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS
(PORTS AND SHIPPING WING)

*** **

CIRCULAR NO. S 15/2020

Change of Seafarers at Pakistan Ports and their movement

G.S.O. (KHI)	
M	4/6/2020
AC	
NO	1851
Date	1-6-2020

Change of crew (seafarers) is an important measure for operation of merchant ships. This SoP has been formulated to streamline the sign-on/sign-off of Pakistani Seafarers at Pakistan Ports for merchant shipping vessels during pandemic / lockdown. The following guidelines may be followed:

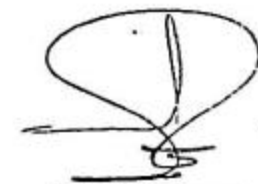
I. For sign-on

- i. Ship owner / Manning agency will identify the Pakistani seafarers for joining a vessel.
- ii. The seafarers will intimate their travel and contact history for last 28 days to the ship owner / Manning agency by email.
- iii. The seafarer would be examined by Port Health Officer as per the guidelines prescribed for this purpose. At the same time, the seafarer shall also be screened, and his travel and contact history examined for the last 28 days; seafarer found suitable may be processed for sign-on.
- iv. The cleared seafarer will be issued a transit pass for movement alongwith a transit pass for the driver by the Government Shipping Office, Karachi.
- v. The transit pass (to and fro) will be issued for a fixed route and with specified validity and will have to be adhered to strictly. Provincial Government have requested to honour such transit passes issued by Government Shipping Office, Karachi. (contact@shippingoffice.gov.pk)
- vi. The social distancing and other hygiene norms, as per standard health protocol, would be followed by the vehicle transporting the seafarer to his destination.
- vii. At the port of embarkation, the seafarer shall be tested for COVID-19, the seafarer would be ready for sign-on only if the COVID-19 test is negative, failing which, action will be taken as per guidelines of relevant Provincial Health Department(s) / Central Health Directorate, Ministry of Health Regulation, Government of Pakistan.

II. For Sign-off

- i. The master of a vessel, coming from any foreign port shall ascertain the state of health of each person on board the vessel and submit the Maritime Declaration of Health to the Port Health Officer and to the port authorities. In addition, the information required by the Port Health Officer, like temperature chart, individual health declaration, etc. shall also be provided by the master as per the directives of the Port Health Authorities. Port Health Authorities shall grant pratique to the vessel prior to berthing as per necessary health protocols.

- ii. The Pakistani seafarer arriving on the vessel would undergo the COVID-19 test for confirmation that he / she is negative for COVID-19. After disembarking and till the time the seafarer reaches the testing facility, within the port premises, it will be ensured by the ship owner that all safety precautions as per standard health protocol are observed.
- iii. Till the time, test reports of the seafarer are received, the seafarer shall be kept in the quarantine facility by the Port Health Authority.
- iv. If the seafarer is tested as positive for COVID-19, he / she will be dealt with as per the procedures laid down by Central Health Directorate, Ministry of Health Regulation, Government of Pakistan / Provincial Health Department.
- v. For the seafarer who is tested negative and signed off, will be issued a transit pass from the place of disembarkation to the place of his / her residence.
- vi. The transit pass for such movement by road, for the seafarer and one driver, may be issued by the Government Shipping Office. (contact@shippingoffice.gov.pk)
- vii. The transit pass (to and fro) will be issued for a specified validity and will have to be adhered to strictly. Such transit pass may be honoured / allowed by the Provincial Government(s) along the transit route.
- viii. The social distancing and other hygiene norms, as per standard health protocol would be followed by the vehicle transporting the seafarer to his destination.



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Distribution:

1. The Chairman, Karachi Port Trust, Karachi.
2. The Chairman, Port Qasim Authority, Karachi.
3. The Chairman, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, Karachi.
4. The Chairman, Gwadar Port Authority, Gwadar.
5. The Secretary, Home Department, Government of Sindh, Karachi.
6. The Secretary, Home Department, Government of Punjab.
7. The Secretary, Home Department, Government of Balochistan, Quetta.
8. The Secretary, Home Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhaw.
9. The Port Health Officer, Port Health Office, Karachi.
10. The Shipping Master, Government Shipping Office, Karachi.
11. The Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Karachi.
12. PS to Secretary, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad.

GOVERNMENT SHIPPING OFFICE, KARACHI

SEAFARERS TRANSIT PASS / TRAVEL CERTIFICATE
(TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN)

No.
Date:

Reference Ministry of Maritime Affairs Circular No. S-15/2020 this is to certify that seafarer named below is a key ship worker and as such he may be allowed to travel along with one driver between his home in Pakistan and his ship as per details below. It is further certified that he has participated in a medical screening conducted by the Port Health Officer (copy attached).

- **Name of Seafarer:**
- **Seaman Service Book No:**
- **Seaman ID Card No:**
- **Passport No:**
- **Home Address:**
- **Port of Embarkation / Disembarkation:**
- **Ship Name:**
- **Owners / Manning Agent:**
- **Travel Route:**
- **Valid from / to:**

It is important for State representatives and relevant authorities to recognize the need of the highly globalized shipping industry, with its multinational workforce, to smoothly undertake crew changes around the world, to enable ships to continue to operate and to enable the swift embarkation, disembarkation and repatriation of crew members, as per recommendation of the ICS, ITF and the IMO.

(Shipping Master)
Government Shipping Office
Karachi