



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

F. No. 15-17011/1/2026-MSL - DGS (C.No. 39455)

Dated: 08.04.2026

To
All stakeholders Concerned
(Through DGS website)

Public Notice

Sub.: Public Consultation on Notifications/ Orders to be issued under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025

The Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 has been put into force w.e.f. 15.03.2026 vide gazette notification S.O. 1244(E) dated 10.03.2026 issued under sub-section (2) of section 1 of the said Act.

2. The Act also requires, for the issuance of notifications and orders by the Central Government and the Director-General, under various sections. Presently, consultation on the below-mentioned notifications/ orders is being undertaken:

I. Power of the Central Government to issue Notifications

S. No. (1)	Section (2)	Subject-matter of Notification (3)	Comment/ Suggestion Of the stakeholders concerned (4)
1.	Section 3(55)	Declaration of waters to be inland waters for determining whether a vessel qualifies as 'sea-going'.	
2.	Section 3(56)(ii)	Specifying the persons to be excluded from the definition of 'seafarer'.	
3.	Section 9 and provision to section 9	Notifying appointment or authorisation of persons or bodies as surveyors for the purposes of the Act, subject to specified terms and conditions.	
4.	Section 15(1)	Notifying the proportion of ownership in Indian vessel.	
5.	Section 15(1)(c)	Specifying other persons or bodies [other than those mentioned in clauses (a) and (b) of section 15(1)] qualified to own Indian vessels.	
6.	Section 37(1)	Notifying the proper national colours for Indian vessels and Government vessels.	

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7.	Section 46(1)	Notifying an officer as the issuing authority for grant of certificates of competency and proficiency for seafarers	
8.	Section 48(7)	Notifying the appellate authority for hearing appeals against orders of suspension, withdrawal or cancellation of certificates.	
9.	Section 168(2)	Notifying the rate of interest applicable to the limitation fund	
10.	Section 224(a)	Notifying other events or sequences of events to be included within the definition of 'marine incident'	
11.	Section 225(1)	Appointment of nodal authorities for administering and supervising marine incidents and corresponding maritime emergency response	
12.	Section 226(1)	Appointment of other persons as primary response party for engaging in maritime emergency response	
13.	Section 227	Notifying plans for prevention of marine incidents and procedures for maritime emergency responses	
14.	Section 237(d)	Notifying other areas as a criteria for the purpose of determining whether a wreck constitutes a hazard	
15.	Section 282(5)	Designating an officer for compounding of first contraventions under the Act	

II. Power of the Director-General to issue Notifications

S. No.	SECTION	Subject-matter of Notification	Comment/ Suggestion Of the stakeholders concerned
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Section 77(2)	Notifying system for inspection of vessels and procedure for port state inspections	

III. Power of the Central Government to issue Orders

S. No.	SECTION	Subject-matter of Order	Comment/ Suggestion Of the stakeholders concerned
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Section 7(2)	Delegating the powers, authority or jurisdiction of the Central Government to the Director-General or other specified officers	

2.	Section 76(2)	Specifying Indian vessels required to carry and maintain Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance	
3.	Section 293	Specifying additional details to be reported regarding births and deaths occurring during a voyage.	
4.	Section 316	Classifying vessels into different categories based on activities performed or services provided	

IV. Power of the Director-General to issue Orders

S. No. (1)	SECTION (2)	Subject-matter of Order (3)	Comment/ Suggestion Of the stakeholders concerned (4)
1.	Section 7(3)	Delegation of any power, authority or duty of the Director-General to other officers or authorities	
2.	Section 47(6)	Specifying training and certification requirements for pilots	

3. The above list does not exhaustively cover all provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 under which notifications or orders are required to be issued as certain notifications/ orders are to be issued based on circumstances from time to time. In respect of provisions not specifically mentioned herein, the existing notifications issued under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 shall continue to remain in force, to the extent they are not inconsistent with the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, by virtue of the repeal and saving clause contained in section 324 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.

4. Stakeholders are kindly requested to send their inputs/suggestion/objections, if any, on all the provisions mentioned in column no. (4) in the tables at para 2 within 30 days from 08.04.2026 on below E-mail ID or by post:

amohd-dgs@nic.in

OR

To

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(Ash Mohomad)

Deputy Director General of Shipping