



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. 23-50/13/2026-CREW – DGS (C. No. 40669)

Date: 08.10.2026

DGMA CIRCULAR 66 OF 2026

Subject: Recruitment/Deployment of Indian Seafarers on Malaysian Flagged Vessels – Reg.

1. Whereas, it has come to the attention of the Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) that fatal accidents involving young Indian seafarers deployed in Malaysia have occurred on a recurring basis, year after year, the majority of such accidents involving Indian seafarers engaged on board small vessels operating in Malaysian riverine and coastal waters.

2. And whereas, pursuant to bilateral engagement between India and Malaysia on matters concerning the safety and regulation of Indian seafarers deployed on Malaysian flagged vessels, the Malaysia Marine Department (MMD) has furnished its findings and recommended preventive measures governing the recruitment, deployment, sign-on and sign-off of Indian seafarers on Malaysian flagged vessels, with a view to reducing such fatalities and casualties.

3. In light of the foregoing, and basis the recommendation of the Malaysia Marine Department, the following direction is being issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 301 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, to all recruitment and placement service agencies:

3.1 Restriction on Recruitment of Indian Seafarers for Inland, Riverine and Coastal Vessels of the Sarawak Region of Malaysia:

No recruitment and placement service licence (RPSL) agency licensed under Rule 9 or 7 of the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Rules, 2016 or 2026, respectively, shall recruit, engage, place, or deploy Indian seafarers on any vessel operating exclusively within the inland, riverine, coastal or port-limit waters of the Sarawak Region of Malaysia. No proposal, offer letter, employment contract, or wage agreement for such engagement shall be processed or acted upon by any recruitment and placement service agency, and any such engagement shall be treated as being outside the scope of the licence granted to a recruitment and placement service agency.

4. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.


08.10.2026

(Capt. Bipin Kumar)
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To,
(a) All the stakeholders through DGMA website.
(b) High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia