



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

नौवहन महानिदेशालय / DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING

“बिटा बिल्डिंग”, 9 वी मंजिल / “BETA BUILDING”, 9th FLOOR

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Merchant Shipping Notice No. 09 of 2016

Subject: – Implementing verified gross mass of container guidelines – extension of time and clarifications – reg.

1 This office had issued M.S. Notice No. 04 of 2016 [F.No. 75-NT (4)/2015] dated 11.05.16 setting out guidelines for implementing the amendments to Regulation 2 of Chapter-VI of SOLAS Convention concerning verified gross mass [VGM] of containers. Further, a supplementary/clarificatory M.S. Notice No. 7 of 2016 dated 24.06.16 was issued thereon by this office, requiring all stakeholders to ensure that a practical and pragmatic approach was taken while implementing the guidelines for a period till 30.09.16.

2 Considering that the implementation of the guidelines is still in its initial stages and remote locations require additional time for gearing up to implement the guidelines, it is necessary that the practical and pragmatic approach suggested in the International Maritime Organization's Circular MSC.1/Circ.1548 dated 23rd May 2016, be extended for a further period, so that the export trade of India continues without hindrance. Accordingly, it is decided that all stakeholders shall continue to ensure that a practical and pragmatic approach is taken while implementing the guidelines for a further period of two months up to 30.11.2016. During this extended period of practical and pragmatic approach, documents in physical format shall continue to be accepted.


3 Even though physical documents shall be accepted till 30.11.16, attention of all concerned is invited to one of the key aspects of the guidelines, which was to improve the ease of doing business in India by migrating processes from a paper based format to an electronic format, so that the disadvantages of the paper based approach is overcome and transparency, accountability, etc., gets enhanced. All concerned are therefore urged to migrate to the electronic format at an early date before 30.11.16, so that the benefits of using electronic means of transmission of data can accrue from an early date.

4 While migrating to the electronic format, attention of all concerned is invited to Para 33 of the M.S. Notice 4 of 2016, which states that '*the weighbridge/weighing appliances shall have tamper proof mechanism that prevents tampering with the calibration*'. It is therefore essential that the verified gross mass of the container obtained at the weighbridge/weighing appliances is automatically captured and transmitted electronically to the shipper (or his representative) directly without any manual intervention. Accordingly, to avoid confusion, the first part of Para 15.3 of the said M.S. Notice is amended to read as follows:

“15.3 The verified gross mass of the container obtained at the weighbridge/weighing appliances shall be automatically captured and transmitted electronically to the shipper (or his representative) directly without any manual intervention. It shall be the responsibility of the shipper.....”

5 This office has also issued M.S. Notice 8 of 2016 dated 23.08.16 cautioning intermediaries between the shipper and the ship not to leverage the safety regulation to impose additional burden/cost on the exporter of cargo from India. This office re-iterates this aspect and urges all concerned to implement the guidelines in letter and spirit to ensure that the ease of doing business in India improves in a transparent manner and logistic costs are reduced in India. This office also cautions all concerned to avoid monopolistic practices and to ensure that fair playing field and healthy competition exists for the benefit of the trade.

6 This M.S. Notice is issued with the approval of the Director General of Shipping and comes into force with immediate effect.



Capt. K.P. Jayakumar

Deputy Nautical Adviser to the Govt. of India