



भारतीय अंतर्देशीय जलमार्ग प्राधिकरण

(पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

मुख्यालय: ए-१३, सेक्टर-१, नॉएडा, (उ.प्र.)

INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

(Ministry of Shipping, Govt of India)

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No. IWAI/Cargo/Covid 19/2019-20

Date: 27-04-2020

Office Memorandum

Sub: Resumption of activities on Inland Waterways -reg.

Ref: Letter of Ministry of Shipping vide F. No.IWT-11011/27/2020-IWT dated 27.04.2020.

I am directed to state that this office Memorandum of even no. dated 30.03.2020 and dated 07.04.2020 suspended the issuance of inward permissions to the vessels for entry in India under Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWT&T) as a precautionary measure to contain the spread of Covid-19.

2. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) vide Office Memorandum no. 40-6/2020-DM-I (A) dated 26.04.2020 clarified that *“as per Para 12 (v) of consolidated revised guidelines issued by MHA, operation of cross land Border transportation of essential goods as well as export is already allowed. In so far, SoP is concerned, since MOHFW has conveyed their in- principle approval on SoP, the Ministry of Shipping may issue the SoP at their end.”*

3. In view of the clarifications issued, by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the permissions for the inward/ outward movement of vessels on PIWT&T may be allowed in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure annexed which are in addition to the procedure in practice for issuing inward and outward permissions.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

(A.K. Bansal)

Director (Traffic)

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Encl:

- (i) *Standard Operating Procedure for the movement of vessels on Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT) approved by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,*

Government of India to contain spread of Covid-19

To

Director, IWAI,
Kolkata/
Director IWAI,
Guwahati

To allow cross border movement on IBP routes strictly following the “Standard Operating Procedure for the movement of vessels on Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT) to contain spread of Covid-19” annexed to this Office Memorandum with immediate effect.

Copy for information (by email):

1. The Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India,
2. The Secretary (Border Management) Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India,
3. Special Secretary (logistics), Ministry of Commerce, Govt of India
3. Chief Secretary, Govt of West Bengal
4. Chief Secretary, Govt of Assam
5. The Joint Secretary (BM), Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India
6. High Commission of India, Dhaka
7. Chief Commissioner, Custom, Custom House,15/1, Strand Road, Kolkata
8. Chairman, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Bangladesh
9. DIG, Border Security Force, South Bengal, 2, Lord Sinha Road, Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata
10. Commissioner Custom, 110, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Shillong - 793001, Meghalaya.
11. FRRO, 237, A.J.C Bose Road, Kolkata
12. Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust

Standard Operating Procedure for the movement of vessels on Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT) to contain the spread of Covid-19*

1. The vessel operator/ shipping agent shall submit to the Competent Authority (Director, Kolkata or Director, Guwahati as the case may be), a Declaration of Health (DoH) in respect of all crewmen/ persons on board in prescribed form attached.
2. DoH shall be filed along with an undertaking stating that guidelines issued by Govt of India/ respective State Government to contain spread of Covid 19 shall be strictly adhered while the vessel is in Indian Territory.
3. The inward permission shall be granted by the concerned Competent Authority only after verifying all the details. The copy of such permission (s) issued shall be sent to all concerned authorities including the district authorities informing the planned voyage on IBP.
4. On arrival of vessel at the points of entry in India (Hemnagar in West Bengal or Dhubri in Assam), the shipping agent/operator or master shall inform to the Customs, Immigration, BSF and IWAI authorities for the completion of security, immigration, customs and health check-up formalities.
5. No crew member shall be allowed to de-board the vessel for statutory clearances. The concerned authorities fully equipped with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) shall complete the procedure by boarding the vessel. During the completion of procedure all the guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to contain spread of Covid-19 shall be strictly followed.
6. In case requirement of pilot is felt necessary for safe navigation by the competent authority, pilot equipped with PPE only shall be sent to board the vessel who shall strictly observe the norms of social distancing and hygiene and shall avoid taking any food or beverages on board.
7. The health-check up facilities as provided on terminals and loading/ unloading points at Budge-budge, Haldia, Kolkata, Dhubri and Pandu shall continue. The Competent Authority shall ensure their proper functioning and supervision.
8. The Public Health Officers shall be supported for temperature screening for Covid-19 through additional Port Trust Doctors.
9. Similar procedure of clearance of vessels shall be adopted at the time of exit of the vessel from Hemnagar / Dhubri.
10. All the vessel operators/ agents are advised to carry essential provisions, medicine or other items such as soap, sanitizers, masks etc sufficient to meet the requirements of complete voyage (to and fro).
11. The grant of shore leave shall remain suspended till further notice. No vessel crew shall be allowed to disembark the vessel throughout the voyage (including during anchorage, berthing, loading, unloading etc) except in case of medical emergency with the approval of and under supervision of Local Administration. In case of any need of essential items (provisions, water or medicine etc) during the voyage the vessel operator/ agent shall

make the arrangement of delivery of the such items on vessel with due information to District Authorities.

12. In case any crew member appears to have any symptom of Covid-19 infection, the master/ agent/ operator of the vessels shall immediately inform the same to the concerned Competent Authority in India.
13. Even after following above procedure, any crew member(s) found suspected of COVID-19 will necessarily be required to be monitored by the health authorities and put in quarantine, if necessary. The suspected crew member(s) will be dealt with as per the procedures laid down by MoHFW, Govt. of India. Vessels with infected person shall also be sanitized as per the extant protocols for dealing with COVID-19 pandemic.
14. In case of medical emergency, the health authorities shall supervise transport of the patient to the designated hospital as per the procedures laid down by MoHFW, Govt. of India.
15. In the unfortunate incident for a vessel to deal with deceased person suspected of having COVID-19, the guidelines on dead body management issued by MoHFW, Govt. of India will apply.
16. All other procedures and guidelines in place shall remain in operation and shall be complied with at the time of granting inward/ outward permission to the cargo vessels.
17. No inward/ outward permission shall be granted to the cruise/ passenger vessels during this period.

*(*Approved by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare vide DO no. L 21021/13/2020 PH(IH) dated 20.04.2020)*

Declaration by Health of crewmen/ persons on board

I/We, (Name of Vessel Operator/ Shipping Agent) declare that all the crews/ persons as listed below on board the Inland Vessel (name of the vessel) are in good health conditions and that none of them are suspected to have infection of Covid-19.

Sl. No.	Name of the Crew Member	Designation	Identity Card No. / Issuing Authority
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

Signature of the Vessel Operator/ Shipping Agent along with Seal

Undertaking

I/ We, -----
 ----- undertake that all the guidelines issued by Govt of India to contain spread of Covid 19 shall be strictly adhered by all crewmen / persons on board while the vessel is in Indian Territory. In case, the above statement or declaration found to be false, I /We shall be liable for appropriate legal, punitive action as per the various orders issued by Govt of India to contain spread of Novel Corona Virus Covid-19.

Signature of the Vessel Operator/ Shipping Agent along with Seal

Name and Address of the
 Vessel Operator/ Shipping
 Agent along with phone no.
 and email ID :