

No. L-21021/28/2015-PH (IH)
Government of India
Directorate General of Health Services
PH(IH) Section

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 31st January, 2017

To,

Dr. Barun Mitra,
Joint Secretary (Ports),
Ministry of Shipping,
Transport Bhawan,
1, Parliament Street,
New Delhi - 110001.

Subject: Clearance of Cruise Vessels arriving from Non-Yellow Fever Endemic Countries- reg.

You are aware that Health clearance by Port health Officer is an essential pre-requisite for the international vessels in accordance with international health regulations of WHO. Kindly refer to an earlier issue wherein some issues regarding boarding the ship and delay in clearance were raised by MoS. In this context, it was brought to the notice that the SOPs issued by MoS on the procedures were not circulated to PHOs and to this Directorate as well. Hence, a Meeting was held on the above mentioned subject, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sujeet Singh, DDG (MH & IH), Dte. GIS on 23rd December, 2016 at 3:00 PM at Nirman Bhawan, for discussing the SOPs for Clearance of Cruise Vessels at Indian Ports, as prepared by the Ministry of Shipping. The Minutes of the Meeting have been attached at Annex 1.

During the Meeting it was agreed upon by all participants that the SOPs for Clearance of Cruise Vessels at Indian Ports be amended. The details of amendment are as below:

PHO Clearance Procedure:

1.1 The Shipping Agency will submit documents as per list to PHO, well in advance (at least 2 working days before the scheduled arrival of the vessel). List of Documents attached at Annex 2.

1.2 After scrutiny of documents by PHO of first Indian Port (PoE) if:
a) Vessels arriving from Yellow Fever Endemic Area within 30 days from departure

or

From an area declared as affected for Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by World Health Organization/ Govt. of India within prescribed period.

- b) Not arriving from areas, but having crew/ passengers originating from these areas and arriving to first Indian Port within incubation/ prescribed period.
- c) Having sick n board/ death on board and signs/ symptoms suggestive/suspected of Yellow Fever/PHEIC.

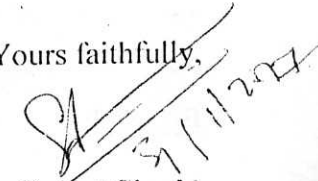
Such cases vessels will be considered as suspected and PHO will board the vessel first on arrival at anchorage or at birth and grant Free Pratique after ensuring that the ship is safe for Cruise Vessel Operations and others to board.

- 1.3 All other vessels will be treated as Healthy Vessels and will be granted Pratique and Health Clearance after inspection and verification of documents & information, as per convenience of PHO/Ship Agent without any restrictions for all the boarding formalities by other agencies, before sailing.
- 1.4 Vessels Calling from Indian Ports to other Indian Ports:
- a) If no significant risk develops/ is reported during the voyage (after the first pratique), vessels will be treated as Healthy Vessels and will be granted Health Clearance after inspection and verification of documents & information, as per convenience of PHO/Ship Agent without any restrictions for all the boarding formalities by other agencies, before sailing.
- b) If significant risk develops/ is reported during the voyage, the vessel will be treated as suspected vessel and will be cleared accordingly, and may require boarding for inspection.

These guidelines have been approved by DGHS.

It is requested that the Ministry of Shipping may forward the revised SOPs, including the Changes, to this Directorate also.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. Subject Singh)
DDG(MH&IH)

Encl. as above.