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Directorate General of Shipping, India

Merchant Shipping Notice No. XX of 2024

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Date:

Subject: Installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Systems on Indian-Flagged Vessels and Foreign flag vessels visiting Indian Ports

To: All Owners, ISM Managers, Masters of Indian-Flagged Merchant Vessels and Masters of Foreign Flagged vessel visiting Indian Ports.

1. Recent incidents aboard vessels, including personnel disappearances, potential suicides, collisions, casualties, and other maritime security concerns have prompted a thorough reassessment of existing safety protocols and the implementation of more robust security measures. In cases of Man-over Board incidents and missing cases of seafarers the Search and Rescue efforts could not be conducted effectively due to lack of sufficient information i.e. exact time and location of the incidents. In the recent incidents, Search and Rescue agencies and other vessels assisting SAR agencies had to engage in prolonged search operation due to the same reason.

2. The Directorate, in view of its commitment to safeguarding the well-being of seafarers and upholding the highest standards of maritime safety and security, has carefully evaluated various solutions to address these pressing concerns. After extensive deliberation, installing Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) systems on merchant vessels has been identified as a necessary and effective measure to enhance onboard safety & security and provide valuable documentation in the event of incidents.

3. In view of the foregoing, the following is being mandated:

3.1 All existing Indian-flagged vessels with a gross tonnage exceeding 500 GT shall be required to install Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems:

a) During their next scheduled dry-docking, or

b) Within twenty-four (24) months from the date of issuance of this circular, whichever occurs first.

3.2 Any vessel undergoing conversion from a foreign flag to Indian flag shall be required to install CCTV systems:

a) Within twelve (12) months of the issuance of the permanent certificate of registry;

3.3 All newly constructed vessels, irrespective of size, shall have CCTV systems installed and fully operational prior to the commencement of sea trials.

3.4 All foreign flagged vessels of size 500 GT or more visiting Indian Ports shall have CCTV systems installed within 12 months of issuance of this circular.

4. The technical and other specifications for these CCTV systems are detailed in the following sections of this notice.

5. Vessel owners/ISM managers in coordination with the master shall conduct a comprehensive risk assessment to identify vessel-specific vulnerabilities and optimal camera placement, including an assessment of potential areas crucial to safety and security. A tailored CCTV system design shall be developed to address identified risks and meet all specified safety requirements, including the need to be intrinsically safe for tankers.

6. The CCTV system installed on the ships should be so as to have comprehensive coverage of all access points, deck areas (including mooring stations), and critical zones, strategically positioned to eliminate blind spots. Specific attention shall be given to high-risk areas such as railings, common areas, and isolated spaces. The coverage shall also include the navigation bridge and engine room for operational monitoring and collision avoidance analysis.

7. The cameras installed in the CCTV should have a minimum resolution of 1080p Full HD, a frame rate of at least 30 fps, wide dynamic range (WDR) capability, an IP66 or

higher weatherproof rating, infrared or low-light capabilities for nighttime operation (in unlit areas), and Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) functionality for key areas.

8. The system shall also provide for continuous 24/7 recording with a minimum storage capacity for 90 days of footage. Additionally, backup storage systems shall be implemented to prevent data loss, and tamper-evident storage solutions is also to be utilized to maintain the integrity of the system.

9. Furthermore, a centralized monitoring station shall be established on the bridge or in a dedicated security office, with a user-friendly interface for real-time monitoring and playback. There should be access control measures shall be implemented to prevent unauthorized system alterations.

10. Additionally, the CCTV systems of all foreign-going vessels shall have secure, encrypted data transmission capabilities for the main deck and accommodation feeds to authorized shore-based facilities and be compatible with remote access by the Directorate or other designated security agencies, Indian Armed Forces (including the Coast Guard), and authorized casualty investigators. This transmission will only be done on request by such agencies and should be capable of being triggered by the vessel owners/ISM managers.

11. Professional installation shall be carried out by certified technicians, ensuring the proper configuration and testing of all components. Thorough training on system operation, monitoring, and maintenance shall be provided to the master and crew, with CCTV protocols included in regular security drills and exercises. Detailed records of system design, installation, maintenance schedules, and operational procedures shall be maintained, and Form E of the safety equipment certificate of the vessel will include the endorsement of the CCTV system.

12. The Mercantile Marine Departments (MMDs) and Recognized organizations (ROs) shall ensure the fitment of CCTV systems during the scheduled surveys and inspections. The CCTV installation should be maintained as per the instructions of makers and should be inspected by the ROs during the annual surveys. The deficiency with respect to CCTV installation shall not be considered detainable during the Flag State and Port State Control inspections. The ship owners/managers should be given a reasonable

time for rectification of deficiencies (if any) noted in CCTV installations during the inspections.

13. The vessel's safety management system shall be updated to incorporate the CCTV installation, operation and maintenance protocols and align with ISM Code requirements.

This is issued with the approval of the competent authority.

Capt. Manish Kumar
Nautical Surveyor-cum-Deputy Director General (Technical)
Directorate General of Shipping, Government of India