

Dated: 02nd September, 2015

GENERAL ORDER

Subject: Relaxation of cabotage restriction for special vessels such as RO-RO, Hybrid RO-RO, RO Pure Car Carriers, Pure Car and Truck Carriers, LNG vessels and Over- Dimensional, Cargo or Project Cargo, Carriers - regarding.

In exercise of the authority vested in the Central Government vide section 407(3) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 as amended, it has been decided with the approval of the competent authority, that the provisions of section 407(1) ibid shall not apply to vessels classified in common/trade terminology as Roll-On Roll-Off (RO-RO), Hybrid Roll-On Roll-Off (Hybrid RO-RO), RO-RO-cum-Passenger (Ro-Pax), Pure Car Carriers, Pure Car and Truck Carriers, LNG vessels and Over-Dimensional Cargo or Project Cargo Carriers for a period of five years commencing from the date of issue of this order.

2. The aforesaid relaxation shall be subject to the following conditions namely:

2.1. That such vessels shall comply with the rules, regulations and guidelines issued, from time to time, by the Directorate General of Shipping /Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India, in respect of maritime safety, security, pollution prevention, wreck removal, salvage, insurance and other requirements, including promoting the deployment of Indian national crew and trainees on board such vessels.

2.2. That such vessels will obtain one time permission from Directorate General of Shipping for operating in Indian Coastal Waters. The Directorate General of Shipping shall grant this permission after obtaining security clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence through Ministry of Shipping for crew and equipment, as is being done for ships being chartered for offshore explorations.

2.3. That Indian law enforcement agencies including Indian Navy, Coast Guard, State Maritime Police and Customs, shall be allowed to board such vessels, any time in the sea, for ascertaining the bonafide credentials of the said vessels/crew.

Yours faithfully,



(S. Padmanabhan)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
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