

# St. Kitts and Nevis International Ship Registry

*Flying the Flag of the  
Federation Worldwide*



[www.StKittsNevisRegistry.net](http://www.StKittsNevisRegistry.net)

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## **Circular Letter to Maritime Registrars, Ship Owners and Ship Operators**

**Maritime Circular No. MC/89/19**

**DATE: 18 DECEMBER 2019**

### **PROHIBITION ON USE OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS IN INDIAN PORTS AND INDIAN WATERS**

This Maritime Circular serves to inform that the Government of India has imposed a ban on single use plastic on all Indian ships and foreign ships while in Indian waters and Indian ports. The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) of the Government of India published DGS Order No. 05 of 2019 on *Prohibition on Use of Single Use Plastics* on 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, appended below, as the foregoing measures that have to be put in place to ensure safe, secure, environmentally sound, sustainable shipping in public interest. The Order shall come into force with immediate effect.

The published DGS Order indicates that the following single use plastic items are prohibited to be used on board of Indian ships and foreign ships, when such ships are in any port or place in India, with immediate effect:

- Cutlery, plates and cups;
- Up-to 10 litres bottles for water and other drinks;
- Garbage and shopping bags;
- Dispensing containers for cleaning fluids which are less than 10 litres volume.

Additionally to the above, the following single use plastics will be prohibited to be used with the effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020:

- Bags, trays, containers, food packaging film;
- Milk bottles, freezer bags, shampoo bottles, ice cream containers;
- Bottles for water and other drinks, dispensing containers for cleaning fluids, biscuit trays;
- Hot drink cups, insulated food packaging, protective packaging for fragile items;
- Microwave dishes, ice cream tubs, potato chip bags, bottle caps.

As per the DGS Order, Flag State Inspection/Audit/Survey of Indian ships to be conducted to verify that Single use plastics are neither used and nor available on Indian ships. In case of non-compliance, a deficiency raised to be rectified prior departure.

Administration Surveyors carrying out Post State Inspection of foreign flag vessels will have to ensure that Single use plastics are not in use or kept locked in a store during stay in Indian ports and on passage through the territorial waters of India.

Under Article 11 of UNCLOS a foreign ship intending to enter an Indian port will be required to make a log entry identifying the "Single Use Plastic Items" on board the ship and state the time, latitude and longitude "when" along with the location of the store where these items are stored prior entering Indian territorial waters.

Further, no single use plastic items are to be discharged to port reception facility at an Indian port. Same will be verified during Port State Inspection.

No detention of foreign ships to be enforced. In case it is found necessary, a handwritten deficiency in the printed PSC Form B to be rectified prior departure may be issued. However, no such deficiency will be uploaded to the Indian Ocean MoU database.

If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Ryan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Liam Ryan  
*International Registrar of Shipping and Seamen*



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F.No. ENG.OPP-38(02)/19

Dated 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019

**DGS Order No. 05 of 2019**

**Sub.: Prohibition on use of Single Use Plastics**

**Introduction:**

Whereas the object of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as amended is to foster the development of shipping and ensure the safe & efficient Indian mercantile marine in a manner best suited to serve the national interests;

2. Whereas the Directorate General of Shipping [DGS], Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India is the designated maritime administration of the country to administer the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as amended, as facilitator and regulator of the merchant shipping in India;

3. Whereas, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment;

4. Whereas, over the years India has actively collaborated in the work of the UNEP, including for the prevention of marine pollution;

5. Whereas, as per the 2018 UNEP report titled '*Single-use plastics - A Roadmap for Sustainability*', single-use plastics are also known as disposable plastics like plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles and food packaging, which are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled;

6. Whereas, the aforesaid report highlighted the ubiquitous nature of plastic for being one of the greatest environmental challenges that chokes marine life transforming some marine areas into a plastic soup;

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7. According to International Clean-up Report, 2017, the most common finds during international coastal clean-ups are, in order of magnitude, cigarette butts, plastic beverage bottles, plastic bottle caps, food wrappers, plastic grocery bags, plastic lids, straws and stirrers, glass beverage bottles, other kinds of plastic bags, and foam take-away containers. Single-use plastics took most of the spots in this list of top ten.
8. Whereas, as per the 2018 UNEP report, *Single-use plastics - A Roadmap for Sustainability*: "Plastic pollution is a defining challenge of our times....Single-use throw away plastics are the biggest contributor every year, millions of plastic bags end up in the environment, thus polluting soil, water bodies, rivers oceans."
9. Whereas, according to International Maritime Organization, Marine litter presents a huge problem in our oceans, with some scientists warning that, by 2050, the quantity of plastics in the oceans will outweigh fish.
10. Whereas prohibition of discharging plastic at sea is not alien to maritime regulatory frameworks.
11. Whereas anecdotal accounts suggest the prevalence of wilful dumping of litter (plastic bottles, bags etc.) overboard by seafarers and that the lack of proper education and management has lead the seafarers to inevitably use single-use plastic products and discard them in a non-responsible manner;
12. Whereas, to avoid such practices IMO adopted Resolution MEPC.295(71)/2017: Guidelines for the implementation of MARPOL ANNEX V on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
13. Whereas during the Independence Day speech on Aug. 15,2019, Hon'ble Prime Minister had urged people and government agencies to **"take the first big step"** on **October 2, 2019** towards freeing India of single-use plastic.
14. Whereas in-line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's call to the people and the government agencies, the Director General of Shipping decided to examine the issue of prohibiting the usage of single-use plastics on Indian ships and foreign ships while such ships are in Indian waters.
15. Whereas, a stakeholders meeting was convened at Directorate on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019 under the chairmanship of Director General of Shipping and Additional Secretary to Govt. of India. The meeting was attended by representatives of Indian National Ship Owner Association, Indian Coastal Shipping Association and Recognized Organizations.

16. Whereas in the said meeting it was decided that with effect from **2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019** all possible efforts will be made by the Indian shipping to contribute towards achieving the goal of making India and Indian waters free from Single use plastic.

17. Now therefore, in larger public interest a ban is imposed on single use plastic on Indian ships and foreign ships while in Indian waters, as per terms and conditions mentioned under succeeding paragraphs.

**18. Applicability of ban:**

18.1. All Ships which are deemed to be Indian Ships under Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

18.2. Foreign ships in any port or place in India.

**19. Prohibitions:**

**19.1. Items prohibited w.e.f. 01.01.2020:**

Following Single use plastics are prohibited to be used on board Indian ships and foreign ships when such ships are at a port or place in India with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020:

19.1.1. Bags, trays, containers, food packaging film;

19.1.2. Milk bottles, freezer bags, shampoo bottles, ice cream containers;

19.1.3. Bottles for water and other drinks, dispensing containers for cleaning fluids, biscuit trays;

19.1.4. Hot drink cups, insulated food packaging, protective packaging for fragile items;

19.1.5. Microwave dishes, ice cream tubs, potato chip bags, bottle caps;

**19.2. Items prohibited with Immediate effect**

19.2.1. Cutlery, plates and cups;

19.2.2. Up-to 10 litres bottles for water and other drinks;

19.2.3. Garbage and shopping bags, and

19.2.4. Dispensing containers for cleaning fluids which are less than 10 litres volume.

## 20. Enforcement:

20.1. All Recognized Organizations are hereby directed to ensure during surveys, inspection and audits of Indian ships that:

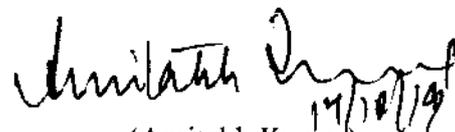
20.1.1. Single use plastics are not found used/stored on board any Indian ship. A Memo to the same effect to be inserted in the Survey status of ships.

20.2 Administration Surveyors while conducting Flag State Inspection/Audit/Survey of Indian ships to verify that Single use plastics are neither used and nor available on Indian ships. In case of non-compliance, a deficiency raised to be rectified prior departure under Code 99103 (Other MARPOL Operational). If same deficiency is repeated during next inspection, it may be taken as a clear ground for detention under ISM Code.

20.3. Administration Surveyors while carrying out Port State Inspection of foreign flag vessels to ensure that Single use plastics are not in use and are kept locked in a store during their stay in Indian ports and on their passage through the territorial waters of India. A foreign ships intending to enter an Indian port (as defined in Article 11 of UNCLOS), is required to make a log entry identifying the "Single Use Plastic Items" on board the ship and stating the time, latitude and longitude "when" along with the location of the store where these items are stored prior entering Indian territorial waters. Further no single use plastic items to be discharged to port reception facility at an Indian port; same to be verified during Port State Inspections.

20.4. No detention of foreign ships to be enforced. In case it is found necessary, after uploading all other deficiencies on IOCIS website, a handwritten deficiency in the printed PSC Form 'B' to be rectified prior departure may be issued; however, no such deficiency to be uploaded on IOCIS.

21. The foregoing measures have been put in place to ensure safe, secure, environmentally sound, sustainable shipping and in public interest.
22. This order shall come into force with immediate effect.



(Amitabh Kumar)  
Director General of Shipping  
& Additional Secretary to the GoI.

To;

1. All the stakeholders through DGS website
2. All Mercantile Marine Departments
4. All Recognised Organisations
5. Indian Ports Association
6. Indian National Ship-owners Association [INSA], Mumbai.
8. ICC Shipping Association [ICCSA], Mumbai.

Copy for kind information to:

The Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Shipping, Transport Bhawan,  
1, Parliament Street, New Delhi – 110 001. [Attn.: Shri Satinder Pal Singh, Joint Secretary]