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पत्तन प्रबंध बोर्ड  
PORT MANAGEMENT BOARD  
अण्डमान तथा निकोबार द्वीपसमूह  
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

**NOTIFICATION**

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR SAILING YACHTS VISITING  
A & N ISLANDS**

Port Blair, dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2022.

No.112/2022/F.No.03/VRC/PMB/2019/FSY/3808.— A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been formulated to provide a single window system for grant of permission to sailing Yachts calling at Ports of Andaman and Nicobar Islands in a time bound manner. The Port Management Board, Andaman and Nicobar Islands shall be the Nodal Department.

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to be followed for visiting sailing Yachts shall be as follows :

**1. Procedure on Arrival**

1.1 The Owners / Shipping Agents of the sailing Yacht likely to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands shall submit pre-arrival intimation at least five working days in advance to the Chief Port Administrator, Port Management Board, Port Blair for inward clearance of the vessel comprising of the following particulars which will be called as Foreign Vessel Arrival Report (FVAR) :—

- Name of the Yacht / Vessel
- ETA , Port Blair
- Nationality / Flag
- No. of Crews including Master
- Details of Passengers (Nationality-wise), if any
- Whether valid Visa / Seaman Book held
- Last Port of Call
- Next Port of Call
- Name of the Master & Nationality
- Registration No.
- Port of Registration
- Local Agent, if any
- Length over all /Breadth



- GT / NT / Speed :
- Arrival Draft :
- Purpose of Visit :
- Estimated period of stay in Andaman and Nicobar Islands :
- Make & Model of Satellite Phone, if any :
- INMARSAT/ FBB Phone Nos. :
- WEAPONS, if any :
- Diving Compressors :
- Diving Gears :
- Survey Equipments and other Sensors :

- 1.2 In case of Super Yachts (with more than 40 passengers on board) the owner/local shipping agent of the sailing Yacht should submit pre-arrival information at least 12 working days prior approval of the yachts to Chief Port Administrator, Port Management Board (PMB) along with FVAR as specified at 1.1 above. The agent shall be responsible for collecting the arrival card from the Immigration Office and forward the same to incoming Super Yachts for prompt Immigration clearance.
- 1.3 If the Yacht does not have a local agent, then the Yacht on first contact with Port Control Tower shall provide all the FVAR particulars mentioned at 1.1 to Port Control Tower (PCT) on Channel 16.
- 1.4 On receipt of FVAR from the visiting Yacht and on clearance from the Port Authority, PCT will direct the Yacht to safe anchorage close to Chatham New Vehicle Ferry Jetty or to the safe anchorage as desired by the Yacht after receipt of confirmation from PCT.
- 1.5 PCT shall also inform to all concerned agencies viz. CINCAN, COO (MAROPS), COO (EEZ), COMCG (A&N), NAVCC (ANC), SP (D), SP (CID), SP (IMMIGRATION), DIRECTOR (IB), ASSTT. COM. (CUSTOMS), SECRETARY (HOME), DGP, I/C SPECIAL BUREAU about actual arrival of the Yacht along with FVAR particulars.

## **2. Procedure for Inspection and Clearance**

- 2.1 All personnel on board should possess a Valid Indian Visa / or Seaman Book. However, the personnel holding Seaman Book will not be allowed to go ashore during their stay/cruise in A&N Islands.
- 2.2 A Temporary Landing Permit (TLP) for period upto a maximum of 03 days, will be issued to a foreigner who enters India by Air or Sea, without a valid Visa, under emergent circumstances (like death or sudden illness in the family) by Inspector (Foreign), A&N Police provided the Immigration Officer is satisfied regarding the bonafide of the foreigner. A fee of USD 40 or equivalent amount in Indian Rupees per passenger, including children will be charged for the grant of TLP.
- 2.3 The representative of Custom will board the Yacht.
- 2.4 Coast Guard and Immigration will board individually and shall intimate the clearance granted immediately to Port Control Tower (PCT) after completion of inspection by Phone/Fax.
- 2.5 All Clearances to Yacht shall be granted within four hours from the arrival of the Yacht subject to the arrival of Yacht before 1400 hrs. and necessary documents in this regard to be handed over on board. The same is also required to be communicated / forwarded to PMB/PCT by the respective agencies or the agent of the Yacht. However, the Yacht may enter the Port with the approval of PCT.
- 2.6 On completion of all above clearances, Yacht will be allowed to anchor at off Haddo or sail to Andaman & Nicobar Water or at berth, if required, with permission of PCT on receipt of approval from Harbour Master.
- 2.7 The Tourist / Crew on board shall be permitted ashore only after clearance from all agencies.



- 2.8 For the Island which requires forest permission to land, the Yacht should apply for the necessary permission through the Agent / Master to Forest Department under intimation to PMB. The Forest Department will issue the necessary permission in one working day and PMB shall coordinate with Forest Department for timely clearance.
- 2.9 The Master/Agent shall accordingly submit itinerary to the immigration under intimation to PMB along with a copy of the Registration Certificate of the Yacht. The PMB will immediately fax the same to Coast Guard and provide channel clearance to proceed for Island Cruise.

### **3. Inter Island Cruise**

- 3.1 Prior obtaining channel clearance for sailing/departure, Yachts shall contact PCT over VHF and intimate Next Port of Call, ETA, No. of person on board etc. prior to departure.
- 3.2 The Yacht should keep the Automatic Identification System (AIS) and VHF Radio Telephony (VHFRT) Equipment ON throughout the Cruise. The Yacht should answer the VHF Radio Call, if any of the Naval / Coast Guard / Police Authority contact the vessel from Ship / Plane / Helicopter during the Cruise.
- 3.3 It is advisable that every Foreign Yacht will report their location either themselves or through their agents through HFRT / VHFRT / Satellite Phone / Mobile Phone / Email to the nearest Port Control Tower, PMB at every 12 hrs. (preferably between 06 AM and 06 PM) and the same will be informed by PMB to all concerned agencies.
- 3.4 Yacht to maintain log book from the beginning of the cruise until completion of the cruise.
- 3.5 While cruising in Andaman & Nicobar Waters the Yacht will keep GPS Track / GPS log during the entire journey / voyage in Andaman & Nicobar Waters. Machine generated GPS tracking details / GPS log / GPS Screen Shot shall be submitted to Port immediately after returning of the Yacht at Port Blair.

### **4. Procedure Prior Departure**

- 4.1 On completion of Cruise, Yachts to return to Port Blair and Master / Agent to submit details of Ports visited in the cruise at Andaman Islands in the voucher Performa along with the GPS Track Chart / GPS Screen Shot.
- 4.2 After the payment of Port Charges, No Objection Certificate (NOC) will be issued by the Port Authority to the Yacht for obtaining Port Clearance from Custom and Immigration. In case of any doubt or any adverse intelligence input by any Authority, if communicated to PMB, Port NOC will not be issued until the issue is resolved.
- 4.3 After getting Port NOC, the Yacht will approach Customs & Immigration for their Clearance.
- 4.5 On receipt of clearance from Custom and Immigration for departure, the same shall be produced before PMB, for obtaining final sailing permission from the Islands.
- 4.6 PCT on receipt of Customs and Immigration clearance shall obtain Expected Time of Departure (ETD) from the Yacht and give channel clearance after obtaining permission from Harbour Master and satisfying itself that the Yacht has completed all required formalities and all Port Charges have been cleared. The Yacht should depart from the Harbour on or before the expiry of the Port Clearance issued by the Custom.
- 4.7 On final clearance and when ready to sail, the Yacht shall contact PCT on VHFRT and obtain channel clearance to sail out and intimate the next port of call, ETA etc. This information will be informed to all concerned agencies listed at Sl. No. 1.5 by Port Control Tower.



**5. General**

- 5.1 Foreign Passengers / Crew on board Foreign Yachts will be permitted to land ashore on 30 Islands (as per Annexure 'A' & 'B'). Further, Foreign Passengers/Crew on board Foreign Yachts visiting other Islands will be permitted for undertaking activities permissible under this SOP at anchorage only. However, permission from Deputy Commissioners of the respective Districts will be required for landing into Tribal Reserve Areas (TRAs) and from Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for landing into Marine National Parks, Forest / Wildlife Sanctuaries and Forest Reserve Areas in the whole of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Also, the Yachts while cruising will have to maintain a distance of 5 Kms. from the High Tide Line of the Notified Tribal Reserve Areas (as per Annexure 'C').
- 5.2 Yachts shall be permitted to be used for activities permissible under this SOP only. Commercial ticketing for utilizing the Yacht for Inter Island Passenger Transportation shall not be permitted.
- 5.3 Yacht is not allowed to sail in Middle Strait except for shelter in case of rough weather.
- 5.4 The Yacht Captain shall get well versed with the procedure to be followed while cruising and abided by the same.
- 5.5 The Yachts will be permitted to undertake Game Fishing and catching of fish for own consumption . However, the species of fish prohibited for catching in territorial water of A&N Islands are those specified in Annexure 'D'.
- 5.6 The purpose of visiting Yachts should be for tourism only i.e. Snorkelling, Scuba Diving & Recreational Fishing.
- 5.7 Burmese Nationals are not allowed to visit Mayabunder and Diglipur without prior permission of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- 5.8 Nationals and Origins of China, Pakistan and Afghanistan require prior permission from Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) despite having valid Indian Visa / Seaman Book.
- 5.9 Iridium and Thuraya Satellite Phone are not permitted for use in Indian Waters. If found using the same, legal proceeding as per procedure will be conducted.
- 5.10 The visiting Yachts should report about any dead fish above 10 Kg. or more than 03 Nos. brought to the shore after every voyage to the Area Fishery Officer.
- 5.11 Any fish caught which are covered under Annexure 'D' must be released back to sea immediately as quickly as possible. Photography / Videography of such catch is not permitted.
- 5.12 Details with regard to joining of any foreign passenger to the Yacht at Port Blair or any other Island / Location should be intimated by the Local Agent / Master of the Yacht to Immigration Officer, Port Blair. Such passengers shall be permitted after getting prior approval of Foreigner Registration Office (FRO), Port Blair followed by the approval letter from the Immigration Office, Port Blair.
- 5.13 In case of a Private Yacht, Scuba Diving can be undertaken by certified divers at locations specified in Notification No.50/2014, dated 02<sup>nd</sup> April, 2014 (Annexure "E") issued by Directorate of Tourism, A & N Administration as Guidelines for Scuba Diving Centres in A&N Islands on submission of Indemnity Bond in prescribed format by the Diver and the Captain of the Yacht.
- 5.14 In case of a Commercial Yacht, Scuba Diving can be undertaken by certified divers in areas specified at Annexure 'E' on submission of Indemnity Bond (in the format prescribed by DoT) and under the supervision of the Dive Instructor certified by Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), Confederation Mondiale des Activities Subaquatiques (CMAS), National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI), British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) & Scuba Schools International (SSI) or any other body as mentioned in the A & N Administration Scuba Guidelines, dated 02.04.2014.
- 5.15 The commercial Yacht should submit a self certified list of Dive equipments available on board Yacht along with the Indemnity Bond.



5.16 Any person found indulging in practices prohibited in the A & N Administration Scuba Guidelines, dated 02.04.2014 or violating the terms of Indemnity Bond will be fined INR 20,000 or 250 USD per person present on the Yacht.

5.17 Important Telephone Numbers:

- a) MRCC : 03192-242948/245942
- b) PCT : Chatham-03192-233674/233296  
Atlanta Point-03192-233683
- c) PCC : 03192-231794
- d) Ambulance : 101
- e) Police : 100
- f) Fire : 102
- g) NERS : 1077, 1070

**Approved by the Lieutenant Governor,  
Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**

**Sd./-  
Chief Port Administrator,  
Port Management Board.**



**Annexure-E****Areas Open for Scuba Diving in Andaman Islands**

Following areas have been identified and kept open for Scuba Diving activities :—

- a. Shaheed Dweep.
- b. Henry Lawrence Island \*(Marine National Park).
- c. John Lawrence Island \*(Marine National Park).
- d. Inglis Island (Sanctuary).
- e. Outram Island \*(Marine National Park).
- f. Campbell Shoal.
- g. East Coast of South Andaman Island between North Point and Chidiyatapu with the exception of Ross Island, main channel to the Harbour, Phoenix Bay, Chatham, Haddo / I.N. Jetty, FDN-I and Brichgunj.
- h. East and South Coasts of Rutland Island outside the Marine National Park.
- i. Cinque Island Sanctuary \*(Marine National Park).
- j. North of North Wandoor and North of Tarmugli Island excluding the Marine National Park and Lohabarack Sanctuary and shallow open sea areas such as Allen Patches \*(Marine National Park).
- k. Swaraj Dweep and shallow sites and barren rocks in open sea such as Pilot Reef and Minerva Ledge excluding Swaraj Dweep Jetty and Radhanagar Beach.
- l. Long Island.
- m. Avis Island.
- n. North Brother (Wildlife Sanctuary).
- o. South Brother (Wildlife Sanctuary).
- p. Sister Island.
- q. Jolly Buoy and Red Skin Island (Marine National Park).
- r. Narcondum Island and Barren Island (no landing ashore).

- (i) Scuba Diving is allowed in Marine National Park subject to payment of prescribed fee which is Rs. 500/- per person per day in respect of Indian Citizens and Rs. 1000/- per person per day in respect of foreigners. Details of the fees prescribed for the entry are indicated at Annexure-E.
- (ii) The entry to Marine National Park / Wildlife Sanctuary is subject to prior permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Department of Environment and Forests, Andaman and Nicobar Administration on payment of prescribed fee (see Annexure-E).
- (iii) The list of areas open for Scuba Diving will be updated from time to time and negative list will also be notified by the Administration periodically.