



As reported through one of IG P&I club's loss prevention circular, a Member being fined for the possession of an unauthorized satellite phone on board one of their vessels.

Members are reminded that under Indian law, the possession and usage of satellite phones without a valid license whilst in Indian waters is illegal and can result in fines and delays to the vessel.

The Indian Directorate General of Shipping issued a DG Order in May 2012, which detailed the ban. Offenders may be prosecuted under Section 6 of the Indian Wireless Act and Section 20 of the Indian Telegraph Act. The DG Order (02-2012) can be found in next page.

The vessel in question was fined INR 60,000 (~1,000 \$USD), as well as having the phones confiscated by customs officials.

DGS Order No. 02 of 2012

No:48-NT(1)/2012

Dated: 17.05.2012

Subject: Usage of Thuraya, Iridium and other such Satellite Communication in Indian Waters.

The Directorate is receipt of letter from Ministry of Shipping, along with copy of MHA fax message No. 122014/HS/2011 dated 12/9/2011 on the above subject.

2. The use of Thuraya, Iridium and other such Satellite phone is banned in India under Sec 6 of Indian Wireless Act and Sec 20 of Indian Telegraph Act. It is intimated to all Shipping companies / Shipping agents that use of Thuraya, Iridium and other such Satellite is banned in Indian waters and seafarers should not us the same.

3. Satellite phones can be used only after a no objection certificate is issued by Department of Telecommunications (DOT) on a case to case basis.

4. The shipping agents should mandatorily intimate the details of person carrying Thuraya and the particulars of Thuraya, Iridium and other such sets in Pre Arrival Notification on Security (PANS).

5. The unauthorized holder of Thuraya, Iridium and other such Satellite phone can be prosecuted under Sec 6 of Indian Wireless Act and Sec 20 of Indian Telegraph Act.

6. Above may please be circulated amongst your members for larger benefit of awareness.

This issues with approval of Director General of Shipping.

Sd/-
(K. H. Mehta)
Sr. Radio Surveyor