



ASSOCIATION OF MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT OPERATORS OF INDIA

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Asian shipowners call for proactively working together to promote sustainable international shipping

The Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA) held its 27th Annual General Meeting on May 15, 2018 in Hong Kong, China, hosted by the Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA). Mr Jack Hsu, the 27th ASA President, welcomed delegates of member associations and called members to proactively work together to strengthen existing relationships with key regional and international stakeholders to promote sustainable international shipping, and to take a leading role in international maritime matters affecting Asian shipowners.

Protect seafarers in abandonment

The 2014 amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006), which entered into force on January 18, 2017, require that an expeditious and effective financial security system be put in place to ensure that shipowners provide compensation to seafarers and their families in the event of, inter alia, abandonment. In addition, under the 2014 amendments, it is mandatory for ships to carry aboard certificates and other evidence to demonstrate that the financial security system is in place.

Comply with 2020 sulphur cap

Over the past few years, shipowners have had to contend with an increasingly complex regulatory regime, but one of the most significant regulations will only come into force on January 1, 2020.

The IMO's decision to implement a 0.50 per cent sulphur cap on marine fuel with effect from January 1, 2020 is arguably one of the industry's most defining moments. A great deal of work has to be done at IMO to determine how the sulphur cap will be regulated and enforced so as to ensure a level playing field.

Respect & maintain international conventions

The ASA SILC believes in respecting the international conventions which are essential for global shipping's survival and sustainability. It is deeply concerned by decisions made by Spain and France to pass judgements or laws which contravene the statutes of the CLC and Fund Conventions to which Spain and France are parties.

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e-Way Bill system for intra-state movement of goods now effective in Maharashtra & some other regions

Following the Union government directing that the e-Way Bill system would be mandatory for inter-state movement of goods with effect from April 1, 2018, Notification No. 15D/2018 dated May 7, 2018 was issued by the Commissioner of State Tax, Maharashtra making e-Way Bill mandatory for intra-state movement of goods effective May 25.

As per an official communiqué, in view of the e-Way Bill system getting implemented for intra-state movement of goods in Maharashtra, all are advised to take note of the following:

NIC has published User Manual, FAQs and Guidance Videos (CBT) on website <http://ewaybillgst.gov.in>, which can be perused by all concerned so as to understand the system properly. The following facilities are available for taxpayers/transporters in case of queries:

- i) Help Desks at various locations
- ii) Toll free No. 1800225900
- iii) Queries can also be raised at www.mahagst.gov.in
- iv) Help Desk email ID: mahaewaybill@gmail.com

The communiqué emphasises that all taxpayers/transporters are expected to register/enrol themselves immediately on the e-Way Bill portal so that it can be generated for intra-state movement of goods from May 25.

Besides Maharashtra, e-Way Bill for intra-state movement of goods has also become effective in Manipur, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep from May 25.

Labour federations & Major Port authorities to meet again in June to resolve issues

The one-day protest strike called by the six labour federations of port and dock workers at the Major Ports on May 28, 2018 has been deferred to June 20. The decision was taken after Mr Sanjay Bhatia, IAS, Chairman of Indian Ports' Association (IPA) and Mumbai Port Trust, held a meeting with the representatives of the federations on May 25.

Mr Bhatia told them that he was in touch with the Secretary, Ministry of Shipping and a meeting has been fixed on June 18 in Delhi between the labour representatives and port authorities to sort out the various issues pertaining to the port and dock workers at the Major Ports on priority basis. Given that this meeting has been scheduled, he asked the federations to call off the strike.

In view of the assurances given by Mr Bhatia, the federations agreed not to go ahead with the proposed strike on May 28 and the indefinite strike on or after May 30. It was decided to defer the strike to June 20 pending the outcome of the discussions with the Secretary, the All India Port & Dock Workers Federation said in a release.

The release also pointed out that the proposed May 28 strike was for implementing some of their important demands such as: Early and fair conclusion of wage revision settlement for port and dock workers at the Major Ports; implementation of the consensus decisions on the Major Port Authorities Bill 2016; and adherence to all the assurances given before the Chief Labour Commissioner in the past.

Humor

