

Instruction No. 13/2021-Customs

F. No. 394/50/2021-Cus (AS)

Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue
Anti-Smuggling Unit (CBIC)

Room No. 501, 5th Floor, Hudco Vishala Building,
R. K. Puram, New Delhi **dated 21.06.2021**

To

The Pr. Chief Commissioners/ Chief Commissioners Customs/ Customs (P),
Ahmedabad/ Bengaluru/Bhubaneswar/Chennai/Cochin/Hyderabad
Kolkata/Mumbai-I/II/III/Pune/Trichy/Visakhapatnam.

Madam/Sir,

Subject: Regulating Movement of Indian Sailing vessels (ISVs) (Dhows) Security Issue-reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer to O.M No. 25022/29/2019-Imm.dated 18.02.2021 (copy enclosed), on the above mentioned subject.

2. As may be seen, the MHA reiterates that as per the existing legal framework, a vessel on International voyage should neither depart from nor attempt to enter into India through any point or place other than designated Immigration Check Posts. Further, it is apprehended that Indian Sailing Vessels (ISVs)/Dhows proceeding on International voyages from certain non-designated Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) of Gujarat have obtained clearances from MMD, Customs and Marine Police.

3. In the wake of the likely involvement of these vessels in narco smuggling, human smuggling etc., the MHA has intimated that Customs authorities should refrain from issuing clearances to these vessels from non-designated seaports ICPs. Further, while granting clearance at designated ICPs, all security regulations viz. physical verification of the crew on board, checking of their passports and seaman identity card, endorsing of departure and arrival stamps on their passports as the case may be as mandated by the Government of India should be fulfilled on par with other merchant vessels.

4. This being a matter of serious security concern in the coastal areas, the Board desires that all officers concerned should be sensitized for being vigilant to avoid any unwarranted movements of ISVs/ Dhows and to issue clearances from designated ICPs/Sub check Posts of designated ICP to said vessels, strictly **in accordance with** the aforementioned instructions of the MHA.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above.

(Sharad Srivastava)
Director (Anti-Smuggling)
Tel. No. 011- 26177519