PROCEEDINGS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR ,
KERALA MARITIME BOARD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695010
(Present: Dr. Rathan U Kelkar IAS)

Sub : Kerala Maritime Board – Houseboats and other mechanically propelled inland vessels operating in the State – Restriction of vessels to their approved area of operation/plying limit as specified in the Certificate of Survey – Enforcement directions issued – reg.

ORDER No. :HOKMB-TVM/1061/2026-E3(IV) Dated. 04-11-2026

Section 14(1) of the Inland Vessels Act, 2021 stipulates that no mechanically propelled inland vessel shall be used or proceed on a voyage without a valid Certificate of Survey. The Certificate of Survey also specifies, inter alia, the zone intended for operation or the applicable voyage or service of the vessel. Therefore, the validity of the Certificate of Survey is not merely confined to the physical condition and safety of the vessel, but also extends to the approved operational/plying limits specified therein.

The Central Government has prescribed the Statutory forms and requirements relating to survey and certification of inland vessels under the Inland Vessels (Survey and Certification) Rules, 2022, which were subsequently amended in 2025. Under the revised certification system, a common form is prescribed for inland vessels falling under the respective categories, namely Category A, Category B and Category C. The Certificate of Survey contains a specific provision/column for recording the permitted plying limits of the vessel.

Accordingly, the plying limit mentioned in the Certificate of Survey shall be treated as the approved operational area of the concerned inland vessel. An inland vessel shall not be permitted to operate, proceed on a voyage or provide service beyond the plying limit specified in its valid Certificate of Survey. If any violation in respect of plying limit occurs, such violation will amount to non-compliance with the statutory conditions attached to the Certificate of Survey and shall attract appropriate enforcement action under the applicable provisions of the Inland Vessels Act, 2021 and the Rules made thereunder.

In view of the statutory position explained above the following orders are issued for strict compliance by the Registering Authority, Port Officers, Port Conservators, Surveyors and other Enforcement Officials, namely:-

(1) Every houseboat and other mechanically propelled inland vessel shall operate strictly within the area of operation/plying limit specified

in its valid Certificate of Survey. No such vessel shall be used, proceed on a voyage, or provide service beyond the plying limit so specified, and any operation in excess thereof shall be treated as non-compliance with the statutory conditions attached to the Certificate of Survey, attracting enforcement action under Section 14(1) and other applicable provisions of the Inland Vessels Act, 2021 and the Rules made thereunder.

(2) All Port Officers, Port Conservators, Surveyors and other Enforcement Officials shall, during inspection and enforcement activities, invariably verify Port of Registry, validity of the Certificate of Registration and Certificate of Survey, and approved area/route of operation of houseboats and other mechanically propelled inland vessels operating within their respective jurisdictions.

(3) No vessel shall be permitted to continue unauthorised operation merely on the ground of its registration at another Port of Registry, an application pending before the authorities, or any previous informal permission.

(4) Where any vessel, irrespective of its Port of Registry, is found operating, proceeding on a voyage, or providing service beyond the area of operation/plying limit specified in its valid Certificate of Survey, the inspecting officer shall record: (i) identity and registration particulars of the vessel; (ii) name of the owner/operator; (iii) validity of the Certificate of Survey; (iv) approved plying limit; and (v) actual location/area of operation at the time of inspection.

(5) On the basis of the aforesaid particulars so recorded, a notice shall be issued forthwith to the owner/operator concerned, informing details of violations of the Act and other applicable provisions of the Rules made thereunder also.

(6) Vessels found operating without valid authorisation for such operation, shall be served with notice as provided in pre- para directing them to discontinue such unauthorised operation and to return to their respective Port of Registry or other duly authorised area of operation within 15 days from the date of issue of the notice. Continued operation beyond the stipulated period shall invite enforcement action, including detention and impounding of the vessel, wherever legally authorised.

(7) A register shall be maintained by the Registering Authority recording vessels inspected, notices issued, the details of all certificates granted, violations of area-of-operation detected, and enforcement action taken, and a compliance report shall be submitted quarterly to the Chief Executive Officer.

(8) A consolidated, vessel-wise list of houseboats operating in Inland Waters in the state indicating Port of Registry, registered owner, registration number, approved area of operation, present location, validity of statutory certificates and other relevant details shall be maintained by the Registering Authority and kept updated. For this all Port of Registries shall furnish details to the Registering Authority on monthly basis.

(9) These proceedings shall take effect immediately and shall apply to all houseboats and other mechanically propelled inland vessels operating in the State.

Dr. Rathan U Kelkar IAS
Administrator, Kerala Maritime Board

To:

1. PA to CEO
2. The Registering Authority
3. All Port Officers
4. All Port of Registries
5. All Enforcement officials (IV)
6. Stock files (E2, E3)

Approved for Issue

Shri. Geromic Geroge IAS
Chief Executive Officer

KERALA MARITIME BOARD
A STATUTORY BOARD OF GOVT. OF KERALA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-10