

1. INTRODUCTION

The Seamen's Provident Fund Scheme framed under the Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 1966 (4 of 1966) was introduced retrospectively w.e.f. Ist July, 1964 to provide for the institution of a Provident Fund for all Seamen, in view of the obvious need to provide old age retirement benefit to the seamen members engaged in the Shipping industry (Merchant Navy) and their family members in the event of death. To administer the Provident Fund Scheme, the office of the Seamen's Provident Fund Commissioner was established on the 9th July , 1966.

2. COVERAGE

Every seaman employed on Articles of Agreement, unless excluded by the definition of a 'Seaman' under the Act or exempted by a specific order as provided under the Act, is entitled and is required to become a member of the Scheme. For the payment of the Provident Fund 'Service' means the period of employment of a seaman under the Articles of Agreement with the crew and includes any period in respect of which wages are paid or are payable to him..

Further details can be seen at <http://spfo.gov.in>