



Technical Circular

No.: 093/2020

Date: 26th June 2020

Subject: DGS, Order No. 16 of 2020 Reg Re-validation of Seafarers Certificates of Competency (CoC) / Certificate of Proficiency in view of COVID-19 pandemic

1. Reference is made to Technical Circular No. 083/2020, dated 23 May 2020 and DGS, Order No. 13 of 2020 regarding Extension to the validity of Seafarers Certificates in view of COVID-19 outbreak
2. DGS Order No. 13 of 2020 provided following in respect of the extension of the validity of Seafarer's certificates -

“All STCW certificates (including the training certificates i.e., certificates required under Chapter VI of the STCW) and associated endorsements issued by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) which are expiring between **01st March and 31st December 2020** (both dates inclusive), **were extended for a period of 6 (six) months** from the expiry date printed / typed on the relevant certificate (CoC / CoP/ CoE), irrespective of whether the seafarer is / was on ship at the time of expiry or not”.

3. Indian Administration vide DGS Order No.16 of 2020 has now provided following revised requirements in respect of the extension of the validity of Seafarer's certificates -
 - a. All Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency for all Seafarers (including the training certificates required under Chapter V or VI of the STCW Convention, or their Refresher Training as prescribed under the STCW Convention, as amended or as per the guidance provided in the Maritime Labour Convention, as amended) and the associated endorsements issued by or under the authority of the DGS, which have expired or are expiring **on or before 31st December 2020**, who comply with the provisions of the STCW Convention as amended in 2010, which is attached as Annex 1 to DGS Order 16 of 2020, shall be deemed to be **REVALIDATED** till **31st December 2021**, irrespective of whether the Seafarer is/was on ship at the time of expiry or not.
 - b. However, the above interim revalidation is only applicable for the purpose of allowing the Seafarer to join ships with either existing expired or expiring certificates and not for issuance of new COCs or new endorsements. For issuance of new CoCs or new endorsements, the existing requirements will continue to be applied.
 - c. No application is required to be made for aforesaid interim revalidation.

- d. Notwithstanding the above, whenever the revalidation of the expired certificate is to be carried out, the normal processes /fees will be applicable and the new validity date will be for a period of five years from the original date of expiry of the certificate.
 - e. Seafarers and the shipping companies, including Recruitment and Placement Services (RPS) are required to ensure that the concerned seafarers have a print-out of their sea service record from the seafarers profile Master Checker available with them, which can be obtained from the E-Governance system.
4. Ship owners/ operators and Masters of Indian flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.

Enclosure: DGS Order No. 16 of 2020, dated 22 June 2020.

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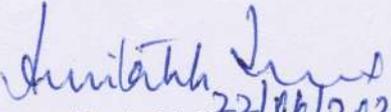
DGS Order No. 16 of 2020

Subject: Re-validation of Seafarers Certificates of Competency (CoC) / Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) - reg.

1. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created a global crisis which has impacted all aspects of life and adversely affected in the normal functioning of the work environment. In the maritime sector, it has severely impacted the ship to shore interactions, including crew changes and in maintaining the validity of the certificates by the seafarers.
2. The actions taken worldwide and within India, as a result of the outbreak, pose a serious challenge to the Directorate to allow the continued training of seafarers, revalidate certificates, including medical certificates and issuance of endorsement attesting recognition of certificates in accordance with International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for seafarers (STCW Convention), 1978 as amended.
3. The Directorate has earlier issued extensions to the validity of seafarer's certificates and ship's Statutory certificates, periodical surveys & audits in view of COVID-19 pandemic vide DGS Order No. 13 of 2020 dated 21.05.2020, where in by para 14 “*All STCW certificates (including the training certificates i.e., certificates required under Chapter VI of the STCW) and associated endorsements issued by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) which are expiring between 01st March and 31st December 2020 (both dates inclusive), were extended for a period of 06 (six) months from the expiry date printed / typed on the relevant certificate (CoC / CoP/ CoE), irrespective of whether the seafarer is / was on ship at the time of expiry or not*”.
4. The Directorate has reviewed the situations again as representation have been received from industry stakeholders seeking further extensions of seafarer's certificates for gaining employment opportunities on ships worldwide.

5. In view of the foregoing and also as emphasized by International Maritime Organization (IMO) vide its *Circular letter No. 4204/Add.5/Rev.1 dated 2 April 2020*, taking a pragmatic and practical approach with regard to the extension of the validity of seafarer's certificates the Directorate prescribes the following:

- (i) All Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency for all Seafarers (including the training certificates required under Chapter V or VI of the STCW Convention, or their Refresher Training as prescribed under the STCW Convention, as amended or as per the guidance provided in the Maritime Labour Convention, as amended); and the associated endorsements issued by or under the authority of the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), which have expired or are expiring on or before 31st December 2020, who comply with the provisions of the STCW Convention as amended in 2010, which is attached to this order as **Annex 1**, *Shall be deemed to be REVALIDATED till 31st December 2021, irrespective of whether the seafarer is / was on ship at the time of expiry or not. However, this interim revalidation is only for the purpose of allowing the seafarer either with existing expired or expiring certificates to join ships but not for issuance of new CoCs or new endorsements. For issuance of new CoCs or new endorsements, the existing requirements will continue to be applied.*
- (ii) No application is required to be made for the aforesaid interim revalidation.
- (iii) Notwithstanding the above, whenever the revalidation of the expired certificate is to be carried out, the normal processes / fees will be applicable and the new validity date shall be for a period of five years from the original date of expiry of the Certificate. No benefit shall accrue to the Seafarer concerned by this Order; in terms of the cycle of the validity period or the fees payable.
- (iv) Seafarers and the shipping companies, including Recruitment and Placement Services (RPS) are required to ensure that the seafarers concerned to have a print-out of their sea service record from the seafarers profiles Master Checker available with them, which can be obtained from the E-Governance system. Further, the shipping companies need to demonstrate their responsibilities as required under Regulation I/14 and Section A-I/14 of the STCW on "Responsibilities of companies".


(Amitabh Kumar) 22/06/2020

Director General of Shipping

ANNEX 1

1. Regulation I/11 of the STCW Convention- Revalidation of Certificates

- .1 Every Master, Officer and Radio Operator holding a Certificate issued or recognized under any Chapter of the Convention other than Chapter VI, who is serving at sea or intends to return to sea after a period ashore, shall, in order to continue to qualify for seagoing service, be required, at intervals not exceeding five years, to:
 - .2 Meet the standards of medical fitness prescribed by Regulation I/9; and
 - .3 Establish **continued professional competence** in accordance with section A-1/11 of the STCW Code.
2. Every master, officer and radio operator shall, for continuing seagoing service on board ships for which special training requirements have been internationally agreed upon, successfully complete approved relevant training.
3. Every master and officer shall, for continuing seagoing service on board **tankers**, meet the requirements in paragraph 1 of this regulation and be required, at intervals not exceeding **five years**, to establish continued professional competence for tankers in accordance with section A-I/11, paragraph 3 of the STCW Code.

4. Section A-I/11 of the STCW Convention - Professional competence

Continued professional competence as required under regulation I/11 shall be established by:

- .1 approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
 - .1.1 **Twelve months** in total during the preceding five years, or
 - .1.2 **Three months** in total during the preceding six months immediately prior to revalidating;
- .2. Continued professional competence for tankers, as required under Regulation I/11, shall be established by:
 - .1 Approved seagoing service, performing the duties appropriate to the **tanker certificate** or endorsement held, for a period of at least **three months** in total during the preceding **five years**; or
 - .2 Successfully completing an approved relevant training course or courses