



Technical Circular

No.: 023/2021

Date: 10th May 2021

Subject: DGS Order No. 16 of 2021 Reg Extension of Certificates of Competency/ Certificate of Proficiency of Seafarers in view of COVID-19 pandemic.

1. In view of the currently continuing pandemic posed by Covid-19, Indian Administration vide DGS Order No. 16 of 2021 has granted extension of Certificate of Competency (CoCs) and/or Certificate of Proficiency (CoPs) until **31.12.2021 or one contract, whichever is later** and **irrespective** of whether a seafarer has availed extension under any previous DGS Order/SOP **OR** is ashore **OR** on board the ship at the time of issue of this Order (28 April 2021) subject to following conditions:
 - i. Master and Officer who are ashore can demonstrate continued professional competence on the date of issue of this Order (28 April 2021) by following way:
 - a. **Extension of COC/COP under Regulation II, III or VI of the STCW Convention except Dangerous Cargo Endorsements:**
Continued professional competence as required under STCW regulation I/11 is to be established by approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
 - 1) Twelve months in total during the preceding five years, or
 - 2) Three months in total during the preceding six months immediately prior to revalidating;
 - 3) Ship Owners & RPSL Companies are required to verify aforesaid requirements as required vide STCW Regulation I/14, paragraph 1.1 prior employing the seafarer.
 - b. **COP for Dangerous Cargo under Regulation V of the STCW Convention:**
Continued professional competence for tankers, as required under Regulation I/11, is to 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.
 - ii. There is no requirement for demonstration of Continued Professional Competency, as required under (i), for Ratings, Electro Technical Officers (ETO) and other petty officers such as pump man / Fitter, etc who have sailed on ships in last five years and for all those seafarers who are already onboard ship to avail the benefit of extension under the DGS Order No. 16 of 2021.



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2. DGS Order 16 of 2021 is valid till 31st July 2021. Accordingly, Seafarers joining ships on/prior to 31st July 2021 can avail of the benefit of extension under this Order.
3. Ship owners/ operators and masters of Indian flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.
4. **This Technical Circular supersedes and revokes earlier Technical Circular No. 003/2021, dated 11th January 2021.**

Enclosure:

1. DGS Order No. 16 of 2021, dated 28 April 2021

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DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

File No. 13-39/5/2020-ENGG-DGS

Date: 28.04.2021

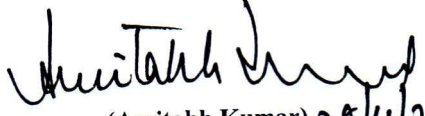
DGS ORDER NO. 16 of 2021

Subject: Extension of Certificate of Competency and Certificate of Proficiency

1. Whereas the onset of COVID-19 pandemic in India, led to adoption of several precautionary measures, and one such measure was closure of Maritime Training Institutes (MTI), to protect and safeguard seafarer and associated people working in the MTI from getting infected from the virus.
2. Whereas the closure of MTIs led to issuance of following Orders/Circulars/Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) as and when the situation demanded for extension of Seafarer Certificate of Competency (COC) and Certificate of Proficiency (COP) so as to ensure seafarers are able to join ships with valid COC/COP for movement / transportation of cargo / people:
 - 2.1. DG Shipping Order No. 06 of 2020 dated 23.03.2020 extending validity of Seafarer COC/COP by one-month for those seafarer who were on- board ships on date of issue of this Order.
 - 2.2. Addendum No. 1 to DGS Order 6 of 2020 dated 03.04.2020 extending seafarer COC/COP expiring between 23 March and 1 October 2020 (both dates inclusive), for a period of 6 (six) months from the expiry date printed/typed on the relevant certificate (COC/COP).
 - 2.3. DGS Order 13 of 2020 dated 21 May 2020 extending the seafarer COC/COP expiring between 1st March and 31st December 2020 (both dates inclusive), for a period of 6 (six) months from the expiry date printed/typed on the relevant certificate (COC/COP).
 - 2.4. DGS Order 16 of 2020 dated 22.06.2020 extending the validity of COC/COP till 31 December 2021 of all those seafarers which were expiring on/prior to 31 December 2020 and have demonstrated continued professional competence through approved sea service.
 - 2.5. SOP dated 30.06.2020 for extending validity of COC/COP of all those seafarers who were joining ship prior to 31 October 2020 and their certificates were expiring after 31 December 2020.
3. Whereas the Directorate issued DGS Order 20 of 2020 dated 03.08.2020 for restarting the training of seafarer through a three-tier training methodology for conduct of mandatory revalidation courses without the seafarer visiting the MTI for revalidation of COP and revalidation of COC.
4. With the aforesaid re-start of training processes, the Directorate has restricted the extension granted to seafarer joining ship on/prior to 31st October 2020 to 31st August 2020.

5. Noting the problem faced by shipping companies to immediately get seafarer to get their COC/COP revalidated for limited period vide DGS Order 20 of 2020, the Directorate issued following Orders from time to time extending validity of COC/COP of seafarers:
 - 5.1. DGS Order 24 of 2020 dated 24.08.2020 relaxed the restriction imposed via DGS Order 16 of 2020, that is restriction of joining ship on/prior to 31st August 2020 for availing extension benefit, allowed to be extended from 31st August 2020 till 30 September 2020.
 - 5.2. DGS Order 26 of 2020 dated 30.09.2020 has further relaxed the above limitation on extension. Through this order Master and Officers could avail benefit of extension of COC granted under DGS Order 16 of 2020, if they join ship on/prior to 31 October 2020 and for rating this date of joining ship for availing extension was extended to 31 December 2020.
 - 5.3. DGS Order 33 of 2020 dated 03.11.2020 has further relaxed the above limitation on extension. Master and Officers could avail benefit of extension of COC granted under DGS Order 16 of 2020, if they join ship on/prior to 30 November 2020.
6. Whereas noting backlog of seafarer requiring extension, the Directorate issued DGS Order 01 of 2021 dated 01.01.2021 extending validity of COC/COP till 31.12.2021 of those seafarer who join ship on/prior to 31 March 2021 and have not availed any extension under any previous Order/SOP.
7. Whereas the sudden surge in number of COVID-19 cases, due to its second wave, in all parts of India and corresponding travel ban and local restrictions, the seafarers finds it difficult to revalidate their COC/COP.
8. In consideration of the urgency and that the seafarers are required to man the ships to continue transportation of goods/people and that they need to be in possession of valid COC/COP, the Directorate hereby extends all Seafarer COC/COP till **31st December 2021** or one contract, whichever is **later and irrespective of** whether a seafarer has availed extension under any previous Order/SOP **OR** is ashore **OR** on board the ship at the time of issue of this Order subject to following conditions:
 - 8.1. Master and Officer who are ashore demonstrate continued professional competence on the date of issue of this Order by following way:
 - 8.1.1. **Extension of COC/COP under Regulation II, III or VI of the STCW Convention except Dangerous Cargo Endorsements:** Section A-I/11 of the STCW Convention - Professional Competence: Continued professional competence as required under regulation I/11 shall be established by: Approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
 - 8.1.1.1. Twelve months in total during the preceding five years, or
 - 8.1.1.2. Three months in total during the preceding six months immediately prior to revalidating;

- 8.1.1.3. Ship-owners & RPSL Companies shall verify aforesaid requirements as required vide STCW Regulation I/14, paragraph 1.1 prior employing the seafarer.
- 8.1.2. **COP for Dangerous Cargo under Regulation V of the STCW Convention:** Continued professional competence for tankers, as required under Regulation I/11, shall be established by:
- 8.1.2.1. 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
- 8.1.2.2. Successfully completing an approved relevant training course or courses.
- 8.2. There is no requirement for demonstration of Continued Professional Competency, as required under 8.1, for Ratings, Electro Technical Officers (ETO) and other petty officers such as pump man / Fitter, etc who have sailed on ships in last five years and for all those seafarers who are already on board ship to avail the benefit of extension under this Order.
9. This Order is valid till 31st July 2021, that is, Seafarer joining ships on/prior to 31st July 2021 can avail of the benefit of extension under this Order.


(Amitabh Kumar) 28/4/21
Director General of Shipping