



Technical Circular

No.: 046/2021

Date: 13th August 2021

Subject: DGS Order No. 29 of 2021 Reg Extension of Certificates of Competency/ Certificate of Proficiency of Seafarers in view of COVID-19 pandemic.

1. In view of the continuing pandemic posed by Covid-19, Indian Administration vide DGS Order No. 29 of 2021 has granted extension of Certificate of Competency (CoCs) and/or Certificate of Proficiency (CoPs) until **31.12.2022 or one contract, whichever is earlier** and **irrespective** of whether a seafarer has availed extension under any previous DGS Order/SOP **subject to meeting the following conditions:**
 - a. The seafarer who is ashore at the time of issuance of this order (09 August 2021) joins ship on/prior to **31 December 2021**.
 - b. **A seafarer who is on ship on the date of issuance of this order (09 August 2021) and his certificates are expiring during his contract or has availed benefit of extension under any previous order:** His certificates are deemed extended until the completion of this contract or 31 December 2022, whichever is earlier. However, he will not get benefit of extension under this order provided he signs-off after expiry of his certificates.
 - c. A seafarer on ship on the date of issue of this order (09 August 2021) and has not availed benefit of extension under this order or any previous order can avail benefit of extension under paragraph 1 above provided he joins his next ship within 120- days of sign-off or prior to 31 March 2022, whichever is earlier.
2. The above extension is also subject to the following which is to be verified by shipowners or RPSL Companies prior employing the seafarer:
 - a. Master and Officer who are ashore demonstrate continued professional competence on the date of issue of this Order (09 August 2021) by following way:
 - i. **Extension of COC/COP under Regulation II, III, IV 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 twelve (12) months in total during the preceding five years, or three (3) months in total during the preceding six months.

- ii. **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 approved seagoing service performing duties appropriate to the endorsement held, for a period of 3-months in last 5-years.
 - iii. There is no requirement for demonstration of continuous professional competence for rating, electro-technical officers and other petty officers such as fitter, pumpman etc., who have sailed on ships in last 5-years.
3. Ship owners/ operators/ RPSL and masters of Indian flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.
 4. **This Technical Circular supersedes and revokes earlier Technical Circular No. 023/2021, dated 10th May 2021.**

Enclosure:

1. DGS Order No. 29 of 2021, dated 09 August 2021.

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MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

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

Date: 09.08.2021

DGS Order No. 29 of 2021

Subject: Extension of Certificates of Competence and Certificates of Proficiency

1. Whereas, the onset of COVID 19 pandemic brought about the closure of Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs) and accordingly the Directorate has facilitated seafarers to join ships with valid Certificate of Competency (CoC) and Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) by permitting MTIs to conduct on-line courses required for re-validation of CoCs and CoPs.
2. Whereas, it has been observed that though the online classes commenced by MTIs but there still remained problems with the seafarers in getting accessibility to internet at remote locations around India and accordingly Directorate further facilitated joining of such seafarers, as well, by extending their CoCs and CoPs, who have demonstrated continuous professional competence vide approved sea-service through the following Orders/SOP:
 - 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 ship on date of issue of said 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 six (6) months from the expiry date.
 - 2.3. DGS Order 13 of 2020 dated 21 May 2020 extending the seafarer COC/COP expiring between 1March and 31 December 2020 (both dates inclusive), for a period of six (6) 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 until 31 December 2021 of all those seafarers, which were expiring on/prior to 31 December 2020 and have demonstrated continued professional competence through approved seagoing 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 certificates expiring after 31 December 2020.
- 2.6. DGS Order 24 of 2020-dated 24.08.2020 extending the restriction of joining ship on/prior to 31 August 2020 for availing extension benefit until 30 September 2020.
- 2.7. DGS Order 26 of 2020-dated 30.09.2020 for further relaxing the restriction of joining ship on/prior to a certain date for availing extension. For 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.
- 2.8. 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.
- 2.9. DGS Order 01 of 2021 dated 01.01.2021-extending validity of COC/COP until 31.12.2021 of those seafarers who join ship on/prior to 31 March 2021 and have not availed any extension under any previous Order/SOP.
- 2.10. DGS Order 16 of 2021 dated 28.04.2021 extending 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 demonstrating continuous professional competence through sea service and seafarer joining ship on/prior to 31 July 2021.
3. Whereas the Shipowner/manager associations (INSA, MASSA, FOSMA) has requested grant of further extension to seafarer CoC and CoP since the vaccination of all the Indian seafarer is yet to be completed and in urgency those vaccinated seafarers

who have their certificates expired or expiring shortly are required to be placed on board.

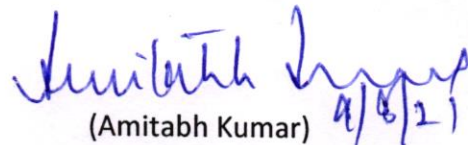
4. Taking all the above into consideration, the Directorate hereby extends CoCs and CoPs of all those seafarers until 31 December 2022 or one contract, whichever is earlier, and irrespective of whether a seafarer has availed extension under any previous Order/SOP subject to meeting the conditions stated in the subsequent paragraphs.
5. Noting that the Directorate has already facilitated seafarer revalidation through on-line revalidation, on-line conduct of training, the extension stated under Paragraph 4 is subject to following conditions:
 - 5.1. The seafarer who is ashore at the time of issuance of this Order joins ship on/prior to 31 December 2021.
 - 5.2. **A seafarer who is on ship on the date of issue of this Order and his certificates expiring during his contract or has availed benefit of extension under any previous Order:** His certificates are deemed extended until the completion of this contract or 31 December 2022, whichever is earlier. However, he will not get benefit of extension under this Order provided he signs-off after expiry of his certificates.
 - 5.3. A seafarer on ship on the date of issue of this Order and has not availed benefit of extension under this Order or any previous Order can avail benefit of extension under Paragraph 4 above provided he joins his next ship within 120-days of sign-off or prior to 31 March 2022, whichever is earlier.
6. The above extension is also subject to the following which is to be verified by Ship-owners or RPSL Companies vide Regulation I/4, Paragraph 1.1 prior to employing the seafarer :
 - 6.1. Master and Officer who are ashore demonstrate continued professional competence on the date of issue of this Order by following way:
 - 6.1.1. **Extension of COC/COP under Regulation II, III, IV 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

twelve (12) months in total during the preceding five years, or three (3) months in total during the preceding six months.

6.1.2. CoP for Dangerous Cargo under Regulation V of the STCW Convention:

Continued professional competence for tankers are required under Regulation I/11 shall be established by approved seagoing service performing duties appropriate to the endorsement held, for a period of 3-months in last 5-years.

6.1.3. There is no requirement for demonstration of continuous professional competence for rating, electro-technical officers and other petty officers such as fitter, pump-man etc., who have sailed on ships in last 5-years.



(Amitabh Kumar)

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