



सत्यमेव जयते

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन  
एवं जलमार्ग मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**PORTS, SHIPPING  
AND WATERWAYS**



सागराः सुपन्थानः सन्तु

# Age Norms Policy


## Director General of Maritime Administration


17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 | Mumbai





# Age Norms Order – Timeline Overview





**2023**  **Age Norms Issued**  
(DGS) issued DGS Order 06 of 2023 to regulate Age Norms and other Qualitative Parameters for Registration/operation of Vessels under Indian flag and, the foreign flag vessels required to apply for License under Sec 406 & 407 of The Merchant Shipping Act 1958.


**2023 & 2024**  **Corrigendum 1 & 2**  
Implementation of SIS and extension for Existing Indian Flag Vessels, to comply with the qualitative norms.


**2024**  **Engagement with IIM Indore**  
In light of multiple representations and concerns raised by various stakeholders, IIM Indore was engaged as a Consultant for carrying out the Comprehensive Study with regards to the DGS Order 06 of 2023 on Age Norms.

**2025**  **Public Intimation for Industry Stakeholder Consultation**  
Stakeholder consultation and request for Industry response on the Order.

**May 2025**  **Draft Order Published**  
Draft Amendment Order to DGS Order No. 06 of 2023 (as amended) for stakeholder Consultation published on DGS website.

**26<sup>th</sup> Aug 2025**  **First Physical Industry Interaction**  
First iteration (physical) at IRS on Age Norms order and IIM Report.

**8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025**  **Second Iteration chaired by DG(S)**  
Second iteration (hybrid) with Industry (First with senior officials involved) on the deliberation and way ahead.

**17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025**  **Final Iteration**  
Third/final iteration (hybrid) with Industry (Second with senior officials involved) on the finalization and way ahead.



## 1. Age Norms supports align with IMO's Net-Zero Strategy.

- By harmonizing India's fleet policies with international frameworks towards reduced vessel detention, improved Flag performance under PSC Regime and green emission as per imo such as MARPOL Annex VI and the IMO's Net-Zero Strategy, the order positions Indian tonnage for future resilience and growth.
- Control on Quality of Foreign fleet in Indian waters.

## 2. Impact (Assuming Policy Implementation as Feb 2026)

- **11.41%** on Number of registered vessels
- **4.99%** on India's goss tonnage

### Final Recommendation by IIM Indore

- **Adopt Scenario 3 to implement age norms selectively and pragmatically.**
- **Phased vessel retirements over 3–5 years to manage transition.**
  - **Scenario 3 (Proposed):** A customized, policy-optimized scenario with differentiated norms across vessel types. This is based on the Qualitative Parameters as per the DGS Order No. 06 of 2023 dated 24.02.2023 and Corrigendum I dated 24.06.202.



## Timeline Recommendation by IIM Indore



<b>Ship Type</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Oil tankers	2 years
Bulk carriers	3 years
General cargo vessel	4 years
Offshore fleet	2 years
Specialised vessels	5 years
Container vessel	4 years
Cement carriers	4 years
Gas carrier	5 years
Chemical carrier	3 years
Harbour tugs	4 years
Anchor handling tugs	4 years
Others	3 years



## Summary

- Total Responses received: **45**
- Request for extension: **40**
- Request against extension: **5**

### Industry Submission **for** extension

#### **5 YEARS EXTENSION ALLOWING CONTINUED OPERATION OF EXISTING VESSELS UNTIL 31 MARCH 2031**

##### **Argument:**

- Limited domestic capacity to replace or renew fleet segments.
- High capital costs and constrained access to financing, especially for small and medium-sized operators.
- Uncertainty around Green Fuel policy for Indian tonnage, man power training for alternative fuels in ports, ashore and aboard.

### Industry submission **against** extension

- **Significant Investments done:** Collectively, have invested around Rs. 4000 crores in acquiring younger tonnage for the Indian flag fleet and supporting shipbuilding in India.
- **International Compliance:** necessary for ships under the Indian flag to maintain quality standards in their operations, as failure to do so may especially affect vessels operating in regions such as the EU, China, and the USA.



# Strategic Pathway for Age Norms Implementation



**Strategic Fleet Renewal  
Requires Time & Negative  
impact on Indian Tonnage**



**Industry submission for 5  
years extension allowing  
continued operations until  
31<sup>st</sup> march 2031**



**IIM Indore recommendation  
for strategic extension  
timeline with sustainable  
qualitative parameters for  
fleet renewal**

## DGS Proposal

- A **three-year extension** proposal, permitting existing vessels to continue operate until **31 March 2029** towards compliance to the sustainability parameters and fleet renewal.
- Sustainability Indexing of Ships (SIS) framework will be released as separate order with timelines after stakeholder consultation in the draft order as a separate component.
- *Equivalent Qualitative parameter* will be also released by DGS for necessary usage by industry



**THANK YOU**