



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

DGS CIRCULAR 17 OF 2026

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| File No. 25-13012/1/2026-NT - DGS | Date: 29.03.2026 |
| Authorised By: Chief Examiner of Master & Mates and Chief Examiner of Engineers. | Subject: Extension of validity of Certificates of Competency (CoC), Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) and other STCW certificates due to the prevailing security situation in the Middle East / West Asia region – reg. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Directorate General of Shipping, Government of India, as the Maritime Administration, places paramount importance on the safety and welfare of Indian seafarers and the uninterrupted operation of vessels.2. In view of the prevailing heightened security situation in the Middle East / West Asia region and adjoining waters, it has been observed that certain seafarers presently serving onboard vessels may face difficulties in completing the renewal or revalidation of their statutory certificates due to operational and logistical constraints.3. Considering the force majeure circumstances arising from the ongoing conflict situation in the West Asia / Gulf region and with a view to facilitating seafarers presently serving onboard vessels, the Directorate has decided to grant a temporary extension of the validity of certain certificates held by seafarers, subject to the conditions specified below.4. Accordingly, the validity of the following certificates held by seafarers who are currently serving onboard Indian-flagged vessels or foreign-flagged vessels is hereby extended for a period of three (03) months from the date of expiry of the certificate or until the seafarer signs off from the vessel, whichever is earlier:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Certificates of Competency (CoC) issued to officers.b) Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) issued to ratings and trainees.c) Certificates of Proficiency for specialized operations including Tankers, IGF Code ships, Polar Waters operations, Passenger Ships, etc.d) Endorsements attesting recognition of a Certificate of Competency. | |

5. The above extension of three (03) months from the original date of expiry shall also be applicable to certificates or documentary evidence in respect of the following STCW basic and advanced safety training courses:
 - a) Personal Survival Techniques (PST)
 - b) Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (FPFF)
 - c) Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (PSSR) Upgradation
 - d) Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (PSCRB)
 - e) Advanced Fire Fighting (AFF)
 - f) Medical First Aid (MFA)
 - g) Medical Care (MC)
6. This extension shall be applicable only to Indian seafarers who are serving onboard vessels as on the date of issuance of this circular and who are unable to complete the renewal or revalidation of their certificates due to the prevailing situation in the Middle East / West Asia region.
7. This measure is being issued as a temporary facilitative measure in view of the extraordinary circumstances arising from the prevailing security situation in the region. The Directorate will continue to monitor the situation and may issue further advisories or directions as considered necessary.
8. All shipping companies, RPSL agencies and seafarers are advised to take note of the above and ensure compliance.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

29.03-26

Capt. Ravi Singh Sikarwar

Nautical Surveyor-cum-DDG(Tech.)

Copy to:

1. All MMDs.
2. All Shipping Companies.
3. All RPSL Companies.
4. All Indian Seafarers.
5. E-Governance Cell – for uploading on DGS website.

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