



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

	DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	IS/ISO Clause 8.5.1
Ref: QMSEAC WPI- 8.5-04D-02	Subject: Training and Certification of seafarers on ships subject to IGF Code	File No. ENG/EXAM- CIRC/25(01)/2017(Pt)
Approved by Director General of Shipping	DGS Circular (NT/ENG) 03 of 2021	Date : 22.01.2021

1. International Code of safety for ship using gases or other low-flashpoint fuels (IGF Code) was adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO by resolution MSC.391 (95) and this has entered into force on 01/01/2017. The IGF code has been defined in SOLAS regulation II-1/2.29 and has been given mandatory effect through part G of SOLAS chapter II-1, Regulation II-1/56 and Regulation II-1/57.
2. The IGF Code has established an international standard for ships using gases or other low-flashpoint fuels for propulsion and address all areas that need special consideration for the use of the low-flash point fuels, taking a goal based approach, with goals and functional requirements specified for each section forming the basis for the design, construction and operation of ships using this type of fuel.
3. The functional requirement training of seafarers is detailed in section 19, part D of the IGF code. It provides that companies shall ensure that seafarers on board ships using gases or other low-flashpoint fuels shall have completed training to attain the abilities that are appropriate to the capacity to be filled, duties and responsibilities to be taken up, taking into account the provisions given in the STCW Convention and code, as amended. Accordingly the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers 1978 (STCW Convention) was amended vide MSC 397(95) to require mandatory minimum training and certification for masters, deck officers, Marine Engineer officers, ratings and other personnel on ships subject to the IGF Code. The details are enumerated in below paragraphs.

4. Training for Personnel Working on Ships Subject to the IGF Code:

- 4.1. Seafarers responsible for designated safety duties associated with the care, use, or emergency response to the fuel on board ships subject to the IGF code, must hold a COP in Basic Training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code in accordance with STCW Convention, Regulation V/3-4.
- 4.2. Master, Engineer officer or anyone with immediate responsibility for the care and use of fuels or fuel systems subject to the IGF Code, must hold a COP in Advanced Training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code in accordance with STCW Convention, Regulation V/3-7.
- 4.3. There are two levels of training for those who work on ships subject to IGF Code:
 - 4.3.1. Basic Training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code, Regulation V/3 paragraph 4, of the STCW Convention 1978 as amended.
 - 4.3.2. Advanced Training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code, Regulation V/3 paragraph 7, of the STCW Convention 1978 as amended.

5. Requirements for issuance of and renewal of Certificate for basic training on ships subject to IGF code by one of the three following ways:

- 5.1.1. Seafarers who have completed basic training in accordance with provisions of section A-V/3, paragraph 1 of the STCW Code: This means a Seafarer must have completed basic training for service on ships subject to IGF Code at a MTI approved for “Basic Training for Ships using fuels covered under IGF Code” in accordance with STCW 2010 Circular No. 10 of 2019 dated 30.07.2019. Such seafarers are eligible for CoP in basic training for service on ships subject to IGF Code.
- 5.1.2. **Seafarers who have been qualified and certified according to STCW Regulation V/1-2, paragraphs 2 and 5 on liquefied gas tankers:**

This means a Seafarer who holds a certificate of proficiency in basic training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations is eligible for CoP in basic training for service on ships subject to IGF Code.
- 5.1.3. **Seafarers who have been qualified and certified in accordance with STCW Regulation V/1-2, paragraphs 4 and 5 on liquefied gas tankers:** This means a Seafarer who holds a certificate of proficiency in advanced training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations, is eligible for CoP in basic training for service on ships subject to IGF Code.
- 5.2. **Validity of Certificate in basic training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code:**

Paragraph 12 of Regulation V/3 of the STCW Convention, 1978 as amended require that Seafarers holding basic CoP in basic training at intervals not exceeding five years, are required to undertake appropriate refresher training or be required to provide evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence within the previous five years: This means that no CoP in basic training for service on ships subject to IGF Code can be

issued for a period more than 5-Years. Accordingly, the validity of basic CoP shall be as per following criteria ;

- 5.2.1. Seafarer eligible for CoP as per Paragraph 5.1.1 above will be issued a CoP in basic training for ships subject to IGF Code, for a period of 5-years from date of completion of basic training for fuels covered under IGF Code.
- 5.2.2. Seafarers eligible for CoP as per Paragraph 5.1.2 above will be issued a CoP in basic training for ships subject to IGF Code, for a period of 5-Years from date of issue of Basic CoP in Liquefied Gas Tanker Cargo Operations.
- 5.2.3. Seafarers eligible for CoP as per Paragraph 5.1.3 above will be issued a CoP for basic training for ships subject to IGF Code, for a period of 5-Years from date of issue of Advanced CoP in Liquefied Gas Tanker Cargo Operations.

5.3. Renewal of Basic CoP for ships subject to IGF Code:

- 5.3.1. Basic CoP can be revalidated, if it is expiring in next 6-Months or has already expired.
- 5.3.2. The revalidation can be achieved by demonstrating either of the following on the date of application for revalidation:
 - 5.3.2.1. One or more Company letter certifying that the seafarer has at-least 3-Months experience in last 5-Years on ships subject to IGF Code or
 - 5.3.2.2. Completion of basic training course on ships subject to IGF Code.

6. Requirements for issuance of and renewal of Certificate for advanced training on ships subject to IGF code:

- 6.1. Paragraph 8 & 9 of the Regulation V/3 of the STCW Convention 1978 as amended gives detailed requirements for issuance of CoP for advanced training on ships subject to the IGF Code to Masters, engineer officers and all personnel with immediate responsibility for the care and use of fuels and fuel systems on such ships.
- 6.2. There are following ways to obtain advanced CoP:
 - 6.2.1. A Seafarer holding a COP for Basic Training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code completes DGS approved advanced training programme for service on ships subject to the IGF Code and completes at least one month of approved seagoing service that includes a minimum of three bunkering operations on-board. (Two of the three bunkering operations may be replaced by simulator training on bunkering operations: Since guidelines for approval of “Advanced Training for Ships using Fuels covered within the IGF code” has been issued vide STCW 2010 Circular No. 14 of 2019 dated 30.07.2019 already includes mandatory two bunkering exercises and this advanced course completion being a mandatory requirement irrespective of whether a seafarer has completed three bunkering exercise on ship (subject to IGF Code) or not) and fulfils all of the following:

- 6.2.1.1. Having a valid CoC: No CoP for advanced training shall be issued to seafarer without a CoC, however, all seafarer are permitted to attend advanced training course, if required by his or her Company and
- 6.2.1.2. Obtain a CoP in basic training on ships subject to IGF Code after fulfilling requirements detailed in Paragraph 5 above and
- 6.2.1.3. Complete an advanced training course for ships subject to IGF Code. This advanced training course can be completed before joining a ship (subject to IGF Code) but after obtaining basic CoP (so that a seafarer can apply for CoP in advanced training from ship after completion of required sea service as per para 6.2.1.4) or after completing sea-service as required in Paragraph 6.2.1.4 and
- 6.2.1.4. Complete at-least one month and one bunkering operation on ships subject to IGF Code after getting a CoP in basic training for service on ships subject to IGF Code.
- 6.2.2. A Seafarer holding a valid advanced level CoP in liquefied Gas Tanker Cargo Operations has participated in three cargo operations on board liquefied Gas Tanker and has completed seagoing service of three months in the previous five years on board on ships subject to the IGF Code or tankers carrying as cargo, fuels covered by the IGF Code or ships using gases or low flashpoint fuel as fuel. This requirement can be fulfilled if a seafarer on date of application fulfils all of the following:
 - 6.2.2.1. Has valid CoC: No CoP for advanced training shall be issued to seafarer without a CoC, however, all seafarers are permitted to attend advanced training course, if required by his or her Company and
 - 6.2.2.2. Has a valid CoP in advanced training in liquefied gas tanker cargo operations and
 - 6.2.2.3. Has company letter certifying that he was involved in three cargo operations on board liquefied gas tankers and
 - 6.2.2.4. Has a Company letter certifying stating that the seafarer has sailed for three or more months on one of the following category of ships:
 - 6.2.2.4.1. Ships subject to IGF Code: This requirement can be fulfilled only, if a seafarer has sailed on such ships prior to 1 January 2021 as after this date a seafarer wishing to sail on ships subject to IGF Code, need to have a CoP for basic training on ships subject to IGF Code or
 - 6.2.2.4.2. Tankers carrying as cargo, fuel covered under IGF Code or
 - 6.2.2.4.3. Ships using gases or low flash point fuel as fuel such as LNG ships where Engine is operational on cargo boil-off.
- 6.3. Validity of Certificate in advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code: The CoP shall be valid for a period of 5-Years from date of application.

6.4. **Renewal of Advanced CoP:**

6.4.1. Advanced CoP can be revalidated/ renewed, if it is expiring in next 6-Months or has already expired. The seafarer applying for renewal must have a valid CoC.

6.4.2. The renewal can be achieved by demonstrating either of the following on the date of application for revalidation:

6.4.2.1. One or more Company letter certifying that the seafarer has at-least 3-Months experience in last 5-years on ships subject to IGF Code with involvement in minimum two bunkering operation or

6.4.2.2. Company letter certifying a sea-service of at-least 1-month in last 3-months on ships subject to IGF Code with involvement in minimum two bunkering operation **or**

6.4.2.3. Completion of advanced training course (with two bunkering operations) on ships to IGF Code.

7. The standard operating procedures for obtaining the aforementioned COP is hyperlinked to this circular [“Standard Operating Procedure for issuance of IGF COP”](#) and this document will be amended and replaced and hence all stakeholders are required to refer to DGS website and download the same whenever required.

This circular is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Vikrant Rai)

Engineer & Ship Surveyor-cum-DDG (Tech)

To,

1. The Principal Officer/ Mercantile Marine Department, Mumbai /Kolkata/ Chennai/ Kandla /Cochin.
2. Surveyor-in-charge, Mercantile Marine Department Office Noida, Jamnagar, Mormugao, Mangalore, Tuticorin, Visakhapatnam, Haldia, Paradip, Port Blair.
3. All Shipping Companies

Copy to:

1. INSA / FOSMA /MASA
2. Chief Surveyor with the Govt. of India
3. Nautical Adviser(I/C) to the Govt. of India
4. Chief Ship Surveyor(I/C) with the Govt. of India
5. Surveyors of Engineering /Nautical and Naval Architecture wings of DGS.
6. Hindi Cell
7. Guard file.
8. Computer Cell