



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 नौका विभाग / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
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F.No.CR/RPS/61/2012

Dated 31.01.13

DGS Order No. 2 of 2013

Sub: Non-availability of sufficient opportunities for the mandatory on-board training for the candidates passing out from the various approved Maritime Training Institutes, and the Indian Maritime University, conducting approved pre sea courses for officers—obtaining Recruitment and Placement Service license.

The Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention, 1997, as amended, of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) stipulates enhanced educational and training requirements for aspiring seafarers. The Government of India taking note of the changing paradigm in the global shipping industry and need for producing & providing competent seafarers in line with the said Convention Standards, was instrumental in opening up the erstwhile government controlled maritime education and training sector to private players. The subsequent boost in international shipping trade encouraged the growth of a large number of maritime training institutions [MTIs] in the country, with the due approval of the Directorate General of Shipping, Govt. of India, Mumbai [Maritime Administration of India].

2. The structured training imparted by these institutions is paying dividends in the global shipping market, now, by the recognition of the quality of Indian seafarers, especially, its officers being reckoned as second to none. At present, 85 approved MTIs, across the country, are conducting pre-sea training courses for the officers category both in the nautical and engineering disciplines.

3. However, the limited numerical availability of on-board of training berths and the recession that has generally set in the shipping industry has caused difficulties for trainees in finding & completing the requisite sea training by way of training berths within a reasonable period. The role undertaken by the training institutes in ensuring training berths for their students/trainees, till now, is notably far from encouraging. A recent review of the situation reveals that even trainees who have completed their pre-sea class-room training a couple of years back are not able to, as yet, get training berths to complete their mandatory ‘sea-time’ required for appearing for the first level of the Certificate of Competency(CoC) examinations. In

fact, the same is embedded in the structured ship board training program (SSTP) in the case of the DNS, leading to B.Sc. Degree in Nautical Science.

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4. It is the primary responsibility of all stakeholders, mainly the training institutions, to ensure that these budding seafarers are able to start their career, timely, without an undue wait. The Directorate General of Shipping has initiated steps, to tide over the situation, as detailed in its letter No.TR/POL/8(5)/2012 dated 02.01.13, inter-alia.

5. The approved MTIs are expected to play a more responsible role, at this juncture, in this context. Those approved MTIs, which have contractual agreements with recruitment & placement service [RPS] providers are, perhaps, able to place their trainees for on-board within a reasonable time limit, thereby reducing the anxiety of their trainees. It is, therefore, thought relevant that the MTIs should shoulder responsibility for placing their students/ trainees, thus, which will have the desired impact on maritime training.

6. Considering the gravity of the situation and to help the approved MTIs to achieve their goal & fulfill all the responsibilities & conditionalities prescribed by the DGS in placing their trainees to obtain the required sea-time, the DGS hereby, extend's the facility to these approved MTIs to operate their own recruitment placement services [RPS], as indicated in the DGS letter no. TR/POL18(5)/2012 dated 02.01.13. Such approved MTIs may, if they desire, avail the facility of also operating RPS entities, now offered on the above front, to enable them to place their students/trainees on board ships for completion of the required sea-time training.

7. Since the approved MTIs are concerned mainly with placing their students/trainees for sea-time training purposes, it is decided to issue RPS licenses to these entities for the limited purpose of placing their trainees enrolled in their institutes only. The above task warrants such institutes to liaise and approach a number of ship owners / employers for appropriate contractual agreements.

8. Considering these factors, the Director-General of Shipping and ex-officio Additional Secretary to the Government of India, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by clause (1) of section 456 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, read with the notification issued by the Government of India vide S. O. No. 3144 dated 17.12.60, delegating the said power to him, hereby prescribes the following conditions to such DGS approved Maritime Training Institutes, while applying for obtaining recruitment and placement service licenses;

8.1. An application for obtaining a recruitment and placement license shall be made by a Maritime Training Institution.[duly approved by the Director General of Shipping], strictly following the provisions set out in the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment of Seafarers) Rules, 2005, as amended from time to time.

8.2. However, the following relaxations thereto are extended, considering the cause of providing training slots/sea-time/on-board training for the trainees for which such license is being obtained;

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8.2.1. The maritime training institutes established before 31.12.06 [end of transition period set out under Rule 8 of the MS [RPS] Rules] shall be eligible to apply for the license under this category provided;

8.2.2.1. Such institutes are registered under a relevant Indian statute such as the companies Act, Societies Act, Trust Act etc.

8.2.2.2. Such institutes have not carried out recruitment & placement of seafarers so far in the past.

8.3. Such an applicant may also request for time for the submission of the Form-IX prescribed under the MS [RPS] Rules, within a maximum period of six months. If the institute requests for such time, subject to the fulfillment of the other requirements, a provisional license [RPS] may be issued to such an entity, for six months. The above facility is provided to the maritime training institutes, since they are already entities approved by this office and in order to facilitate them to prove their credibility while try for contracts with the shipowners/employers. However, such an institute has to submit the said Form-IX immediately after entering into an agreement with the its principal and commence recruitment process only after submission of the said Form IX. The provisional license, thus, provided, shall be regularized as a full fledged regular license as soon as the said Form IX, duly signed by the institute & it's principal is submitted. However, no such provisional license shall be extended for more than 6 months.

8.4. Such approved Maritime Training Institutes shall be entitled to place trainees trained in their institutes only under this order.

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(Gautam Chatterjee)
Director General of Shipping

To

1. All the approved Maritime Training Institutions.
2. Director, Seamen's Employment Offices, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata.

Copy to:

1. Principal Officer, Merchantile Marine Department Offices, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata.
2. Principal Officer, Merchantile Marine Department Offices, Kandla, Kochi.
3. [Surveyor-in-Charge](#), Merchantile Marine Department Office, Jamnagar, Murmagoa, Mangalore, Tuticorin, Vishakapatnam, Paradip, Haldia, Port Blair, Noida
4. INSA/FOSMA/MASSA

5. Nautical/Engineering/Naval Architecture/Training/SD branches of the Directorate.
6. [Hindi Section](#)
[The Secretary to Govt.of India, Ministry of Shipping,Transport Bhavan, 1,Parliament Street,N.Delhi... 110001](#)