



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS नीवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

DGS (NT/ENG) Circular No. 11 of 2025

File No. 13-11014/15/2020-E	Date: 21.03.2025				
Subject: Training and Certification of Seafarers on ships subject to IGF Code					
References:	 a) DGS Circular (NT/ENG) 22/01/2021 b) Merchant Shipping Notic 13/02/2024 				

Part-I: Background

- The International Code of Safety for ships using gas or other low flashpoint fuels (IGF Code)
 was adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization
 (IMO) vide Res.MSC.391(95) and the Code entered into force on 01/01/2017.
- 2. The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, was amended to support the requirement for training in the IGF Code. The new mandatory minimum requirements in the STCW Convention and Code, for the training and qualifications of relevant personnel on ships subject to the IGF Code entered into force on 1 January 2017.
- 3. The administration had issued NT/ENG circular No.3 of 2021, which enclosed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to be followed by the seafarers while applying for a Certificate of Proficiency (Basic & Advanced) initially and the process of revalidation of such CoPs issued, thereafter.
- 4. The emergence of several alternate fuel candidates has led to the development of interim guidelines for the safety of ships using such alternate fuels.

- 5. Recognizing the trend of ships being built or retrofitted, with such fuels, it is necessary to develop interim training standards for seafarers working on board alternatively fueled ships. The interim guidelines mandate that the master, officers, ratings and other personnel on ships using such fuels should be trained and qualified in accordance with regulation V/3 of the STCW Convention and section A-V/3 of the STCW Code, taking into account the specific hazards of each of these potential fuel alternatives.
- 6. The IGF Code defines 'Bunkering' as "the transfer of fuel from land-based or floating facilities into ships' permanent tanks or connection of portable tanks to the fuel supply system."
- 7. It has been recognized that ships are being designed and built to use a variety of alternate fuels, amongst which, some can use the fuel which is carried as cargo; and, do not need to bunker the fuel from an external source. In these ships, the bunkering operation is non-existent and the fuel for domestic shipboard consumption is transferred from the cargo tank(s) to the designated bunker tanks internally. These vessels do not necessarily undertake any 'bunkering' operations as defined by the IGF Code.

Consequently, although these ships are classified as 'ships subject to the IGF Code' but have been reported to be finding it difficult to comply with the STCW Reg.V/3.8 for issuance of a Certificate of Proficiency for advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code.

8. The DGS Circular (NT/ENG) No. 3 of 2021 issued on 22/01/2021 hereby stands superseded by this Circular and the process for obtaining the Certificate of Proficiency is detailed in Part II-IV of this Circular for the understanding of the stake holders.

Part II: Training for seafarers working on ships subject to the IGF Code

- 9. The STCW Reg.V/3.2 requires seafarers to have completed training prior to being assigned shipboard duties on board ships subject to the IGF Code. There are two levels of training for those who work on ships subject to the IGF Code:
- Basic Training for Service on Ships Subject to the IGF Code, STCW Code Section AV/3-1;
- Advanced Training for Service on Ships Subject to the IGF Code, STCW Code, SCTW Code Section A-V/3-2.

Part III: Certification for seafarers to work on ships subject to IGF Code

(A) Certificate of proficiency (CoP) in basic training for IGF

- 10. Seafarers responsible for designated safety duties associated with the care, use or in emergency response to the fuel on board ships subject to the IGF Code shall hold a certificate of proficiency (CoP) in basic training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code. The requirements for issuance of such a **CoP in basic training** are as under:
 - (a) Complete an approved basic training programme for ships subject to the IGF Code in accordance with the provisions of section A-V/3, paragraph 1 of the STCW Code. The validity of the CoP issued shall be for a period not exceeding five years from the date of issue of the basic training certificate by the MTI; **or**
 - (b) Hold a valid Certificate of Proficiency in basic training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations issued within the last 5 years, in accordance with STCW Convention regulation V/1-2. The validity of the CoP issued in this category shall be limited to a period not exceeding five years from the date of issuance of the Basic Gas Tanker CoP; or
 - (c) Hold a valid Certificate of Proficiency in Advanced training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations issued within the last 5 years, in accordance with Regulation V/1-2. The validity of the CoP issued in this category shall be limited to a period not exceeding five years from the date of issuance of the Advanced Gas Tanker CoP.

(B) Certificate of proficiency (CoP) in Advanced training for IGF

- 11. Masters, engineer officers and all personnel with immediate responsibility for the care and use of fuels and fuel systems on ships subject to the IGF Code shall hold a certificate of proficiency (CoP) in advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code. The requirements for issuance of such a **CoP in advanced training** are for ease of understanding categorized as under:
 - (1) Seafarer with CoP in Basic Training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code (Basic Training -IGF Code)
 - (i) The seafarer shall complete an approved advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code and meet the standard of competence as specified in section A-V/3, paragraph 2 of the STCW Code; and

(ii) Complete at least one month of approved seagoing service that includes a minimum of three bunkering operations onboard ships subject to the IGF Code. Two of the three bunkering operations may be replaced by approved simulator training on bunkering operations as part of the training in (i) above. For this purpose, on ships subject to IGF Code as referred in Part 1, para 7 of this circular, one Loading operation & subsequent transfer to the designated bunker tanks will be considered equivalent to one bunkering operation.

Note:

- a) No CoP for advanced training shall be issued to seafarers without a Certificate of Competency (CoC). However, all seafarers are permitted to attend advanced training course, if required by the Company.
- b) The seafarer shall be permitted to undertake the advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code (Advanced IGF Course) only after they have been issued with a Certificate of Proficiency for the Basic IGF CoP.

(2) Seafarer holding Advanced level CoP in Liquefied Gas Tanker Cargo Operations (Advanced -Gas CoP)

- 12. Masters, engineer officers and any person with immediate responsibility for the care and use of fuels on ships subject to the IGF Code who are qualified and hold the Advanced level Certificate of Proficiency for service on liquefied gas tankers are considered as having met the requirements specified in section A-V/3 paragraph 2 for advanced training for ships subject to the IGF Code provided, they have also met the following requirements:
 - (i) Seafarer should hold a Certificate of Proficiency in basic training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code, or met the requirements specified in section A-V/3, paragraph 1 of the STCW Code, for basic training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code; (and)
 - (ii) Met the bunkering requirement of the paragraph 11(1)(ii) of this part of the circular, or have participated in conducting three cargo operations onboard the liquefied gas tanker; (and)

- (iii) Have completed seagoing service of three months in the previous five years onboard:
 - Ships subject to the IGF Code; or
 - Tankers carrying cargo, fuels covered by the IGF Code; or
 - Ships use gases or low flashpoint fuel as fuel.

Note: No CoP for advanced training shall be issued to seafarers without a Certificate of Competency (CoC). However, all seafarers are permitted to attend advanced training course, if required by the Company.

Part IV: Renewal of Certificate of Proficiency issued for service on ships subject to IGF Code

(1) Renewal of Certificate of Proficiency in Basic training for ships subject to IGF Code (Basic CoP)

- (a) Seafarers can apply for renewal of the Basic IGF CoP issued within six months period before expiry of the CoP;
- (b) The Seafarer shall have to submit either evidence by way of letter from the Company for the seagoing service of at least three months on ships subject to the IGF Code in the previous five years; or undertake the basic training course for service on ships subject to the IGF Code.

(2) Renewal of Certificate of Proficiency in Advanced training for ships subject to IGF Code (Advanced CoP)

- (a) Seafarers can apply for renewal of the Advanced IGF CoP issued within six months period before expiry of the CoP;
- (b) The Seafarer shall have to submit either evidence by way of letter from the Company for the seagoing service of at least three months on ships subject to the IGF Code in the previous five years; or undertake the Advanced training course for service on ships subject to the IGF Code.

Table-1					
Certification Requirements for Seafarers to Work on					
Ships Subject to the IGF Code					
Category	Requirement	Details			
(1) Basic Training (CoP)	Completion of Approved Basic Training (OR)	Attend and complete an approved basic training program as per Section A-V/3, paragraph 1 of the STCW Code.			
	Possession of a Valid Basic Gas Tanker CoP (OR)	Hold a valid CoP in Basic Training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations issued within the last five years.			
	Possession of a Valid Advanced Gas Tanker CoP	Hold a valid CoP in Advanced Training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations issued within the last five years.			
	(A) Basic CoP (IGF) Hold	ers			
(2) Advanced Training	Completion of Approved Advanced Training (AND)	Successfully complete an advanced training program, meeting competency standards as per Section A-V/3, paragraph 2 of the STCW Code.			
	Approved Seagoing Service and Bunkering Operations (AND)	Complete 1 month of seagoing service, including 3 bunkering operations (2 may be simulator-based). Loading and transferring of IGF counts as 1 bunkering operation on ships not engaged in bunkering operations of IGF.			
	Eligibility for Advanced CoP	Must possess a valid CoP in Basic Training for the IGF Code before enrolling in advanced training.			
(CoP)	(B) Advanced Gas Tanker CoP Holders				
(Cor)	Basic Training Compliance (AND)	Hold a CoP in Basic Training for ships subject to the IGF Code or meet the requirements specified in Section A-V/3, paragraph 1 of the STCW Code.			
	Bunkering Operations Requirement (AND)	Meet the bunkering requirement as stated above or have participated in 3 cargo operations onboard a liquefied gas tanker.			
	Seagoing Service	Complete 3 months of seagoing service in the previous 5 years on Ships subject to the IGF Code, tankers carrying IGF fuels as cargo, or ships using gases or low flashpoint fuels.			
	Renewal of Basic CoP				
	Application Period	Seafarers can apply within six months before expiry of			
(3)	Requirements	the Basic IGF CoP. Submit evidence of at least 3 months of seagoing service on IGF Code ships in the previous 5 years or retake the Basic IGF training course.			
Renewal of CoP	Renewal of Advanced Col	P			
	Application Period	Seafarers can apply within six months before expiry of the Advanced IGF CoP.			
	Requirements	Submit evidence of at least 3 months of seagoing service on IGF Code ships in the previous 5 years or retake the Advanced IGF training course.			

Note:

Eligibility for Advanced CoP: A CoP in Advanced Training will not be issued to seafarers who do not hold a valid Certificate of Competency (CoC). However, such seafarers may attend the advanced training course if required by their company.

Prerequisite for Advanced Training: Seafarers must possess a valid CoP in Basic Training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code before enrolling in the advanced training program.

The standard operating procedure for obtaining the COP is hyperlinked to this Circular - "<u>Standard Operating Procedure for issuance of IGF COP</u>" and can be used for detailed guidance on the process.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

(Praveen Nair)

Deputy Chief Surveyor (i/c)

To

- 1. The Principal Officers, Mercantile Marine Department, Mumbai/Kolkata/Chennai/Kandla/Kochi.
- 2. The Surveyor-in-Charge, Mercantile Marine Department, Goa/Jamnagar/Port Blair/Visakhapatnam/Tuticorin/Noida/Haldia/Paradip/Mangalore
- 3. Indian National Shipowner's Association (INSA), Mumbai.
- 4. Foreign Owner and Ship-Managers Association (FOSMA)
- 5. The Maritime Association of Ship Owners, Ship Managers and Agents (MASSA)
- 6. Indian Coastal Conference Shipping Association (ICCSA), Mumbai
- 7. Institute of Marine Engineers (India)
- 8. Engineering Wing
- 9. Nautical Wing
- 10. Hindi cell
- 11. Computer cell

Copy to:

- 12. The Chief Surveyor with the Govt.of India
- 13. Nautical Advisor to the Govt.of India
- 14. Surveyors of Engineering & Nautical wing of the DGS

Flow chart showing two indicative paths for issuance of CoP for Advanced Training

— IGF Code (category-A)

Seafarer holds Basic CoP - IGF

YES

Completes Advanced Training -IGF Code



Completes one month approved sea service after issuance of Basic IGF CoP, that includes minimum three bunkering operations. Two of the three bunkering operations may be replaced by simulator training on bunkering operations. These requirements must have been completed within the last 5 years. For this purpose, on ships subject to IGF Code as referred in Part 1, para 7 of this circular, one loading operation & subsequent transfer to the designated bunker tanks will be considered equivalent to one bunkering operation.

YES

Holds a valid Certificate of Competency

YES

Certificate of Proficiency for Advanced training on ships subject to the IGF Code Flow chart showing two indicative paths for issuance of CoP for Advanced Training

— IGF Code (category B)

Seafarer holds Advanced CoP for service on liquefied gas tankers with three-months seagoing service in the previous five years on ships subject to IGF Code/Tankers carrying as cargo fuels covered by the IGF Code or ships using gases or low flashpoint fuel as 'fuel'

Completes one month of approved sea YES service after issuance of Basic IGF CoP, that includes minimum three bunkering operations. Two of the three bunkering operations may be Completes at least one replaced by simulator training on month of approved bunkering operations. These seagoing service that requirements must have been includes a minimum of completed within the last 5 years. three cargo operations For this purpose, on ships subject to onboard liquefied gas IGF Code as referred in **Part 1**, para 7 tanker ship. of this circular, one Loading operation subsequent transfer to the designated bunker tanks will be considered eguivalent to one YES bunkering operation. YES Holds a valid Certificate of Competency

YES

Certificate of Proficiency for Advanced training on ships subject to the IGF Code





Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR ISSUANCE OF IGF COP

Date of Issue: 21.03.2025 Revision No.: 01

1. Procedure for Application for Basic CoP in IGF Code:

- 1.1. The basic CoP shall only be issued in on-line mode and the procedure for application through E-Governance system is attached as **Annexure I**.
- 1.2. No fees shall be charged for issuance of digital CoP.
- 1.3. The Seafarers shall ensure that the following certificates are available on the Seafarer profile as per the eligibility criteria mentioned in the Circular:
- 1.3.1. Basic Safety Course Certificate or CoP for FPFF, PST, EFA & PSSR.
- 1.3.2. Refresher for PST & FPFF or Combined Refresher for PST/PSCRB & FPFF/AFF as applicable.
- 1.3.3. CoP for Seafarer with Designated Security Duties (STSDSD).
- 1.3.4. Basic Training Course Certificate for IGF Code or Basic CoP in Liquefied Gas Tanker Cargo Operations or Advanced CoP in Liquefied Gas Tanker Cargo.

2. Procedure for Application for Advanced CoP in IGF Code:

Note: The Directorate is in the process of developing on-line system for issuance of advanced CoP for IGF Code. Mean-time the application can be made on manual mode to any MMD assessment centers so designated. The requirements are as below:

- 2.1. Fill up the checklist attached as Annexure II and Annexure III
- 2.2. Pay fees of ₹ 4500/- on Bharat Kosh.
- 2.3. Submit the Form and Bharat Kosh receipt along with necessary self-attested copies of certificates to MMD by e-mail or in-person.
- 2.4. Experience certificate as required for issuance of CoP. The format is attached as **Annexure IV**.

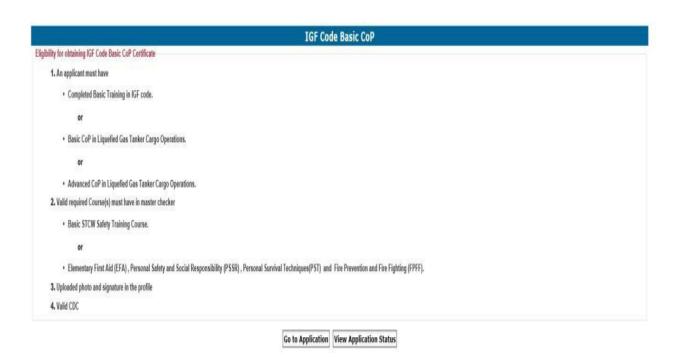
Process of application for Basic CoP Subject to IGF Code

- 1. Go to www.dgshipping.gov.in
- 2. Log in E-Governance system using User Id and Password & Click the link "IGF Code Basic CoP"



3. Click on "Go to Application" to submit details.





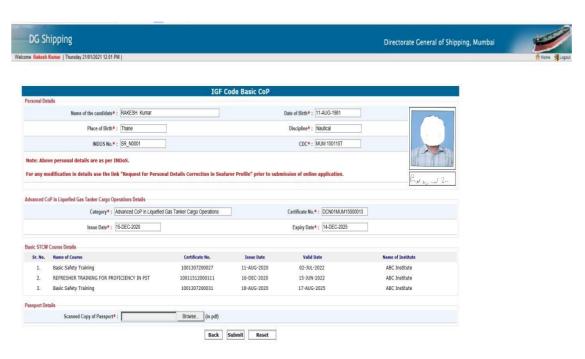
4. Select the applicable category.



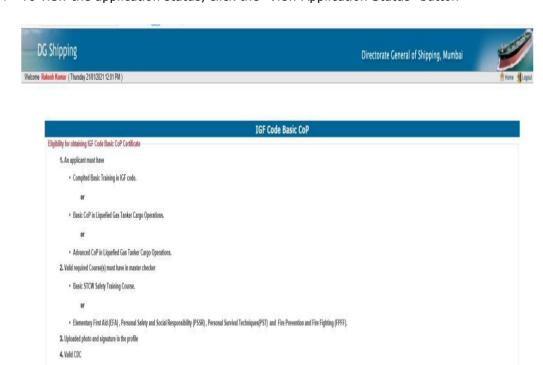
5. Click on 'Continue' after selecting the category.



6. System shall populate the personal details, Photo and Signature from Profile & selected category details from master checker. Select Scanned Passport copy in "PDF-Format to upload and click "Submit" button to complete the submission process of application. Upon submission, the system shall generate an application Number.



7. To view the application status, click the "View Application Status" button



8. Status of the application is visible to the applicant.



Go to Appliation View Application Status

9. Digital generated Certificate will be visible in the Master Checker of seafarer's profile after approval of application.

Annexure II

Checklist for applying Advanced CoP - IGF Code

Name of the applicant:	
Assessment Centre / MMD:	Date:

Sr.No.	Documents Required	Yes/No		
1.	Application form along with this checklist as per Annexure III			
2.	 Original sea service letter issued by ship-owner/Authorised Agent with RPSL No. as per Annexure IV. 			
	 Copy of the Bunker Delivery Note endorsed by the Master, shall be required for those claiming 'Bunkering operation' as one of the eligibility criteria 			
3.	Advanced Certificate of Proficiency for service on liquefied gas tankers			
4.	Basic Certificate of Proficiency for service on liquefied gas tankers			
5.	Advanced Training for Liquefied Gas Tanker Cargo Operations			
6.	Basic Training for Liquefied Gas Tanker Cargo Operations			
7.	Basic Certificate of Proficiency for service on IGF Code			
8.	Basic Training for ships using fuels covered within the IGF Code			
9.	Advanced Training for Ships Using Fuels Covered within the IGF Code			
10.	Copy of CoC : should include all relevant pages			
11.	Copy of CDC : should include all relevant pages			
12.	Copy of Passport : should include first & last pages			
13.	Copy of Medical Fitness Certificate: Should include Annexure IV & V			
14.	Course Certificates for AFF / PSCRB / PSSR / STSDSD / SSO			
15.	Two passport size photographs (3.5 cm x 3.5 cm) covering 70% face in white background.			
16.	Specimen Signature of the applicant in white background			
17.	Copy of Indos Certificate			
18.	Fee payment receipt(₹4500/-): Bharatkosh			

Annexure-III

Directorate General of Shipping EAC Branch

Application for Issuance of Certificate of Proficiency in BASIC/ADVANCE TRAINING FOR SHIPS SUBJECT TO IGF CODE

(Refer to Instruction and Guidelines issued by DGS)

	Subj	O, MMD ect: Applicati rike off as a	on for Issuance of Certific	cate of Proficiency	in Basi	ic/ Advar	nce* training	for sl	hips subject to IGF Code
Colour		Name (as per Passport):			Pass	Passport No.:			
Photograph 40mm x 30 mm	8			Given Name	NT /	. 1.			
40mm x 30 mm					Nat	tionality:			
	Date	of Birth: (DI	D/MM/YYYY)		IND	DoS No.			
CDC No.	Date	Date of issue/Renewal			Plac	Place of Issue			
COP No.	Date	Date of issue/Renewal			Plac	Place of Issue		Basic /Advanced in LGT/ Basic on Ships Subject to IGF Code	
Capacity in which					Dep	partment	– DECK/EN	GIN	E
working on board									
Courses done relevant to	the issu	ance of COP			Cert. No			Date Issued	
2									
Certificate of Sea Service (only for Re validation every 5 years) – Sea service on ships subject to IGF code									
Vessel partic	Vessel particulars Rank Served		Duration	Duration Served Sea Service		ce	Rank Held		
Name Ty	pe	IMO No		From	,	То			
Issuance of Certificate of I	Proficie	ncy of Servic	e on Ships subject to IGF	Code requested as	follows	:			
Type of Ship			2 0	Level of Tra	ining				
Ships Subject to IGF Code	;			Basic/Advan	ce Train	ing * (*S	Strike off as a	pplica	able)
I hereby declare that the particle overleaf.	articulai	rs given abov	e are correct and true to th	e best of my know	vledge a	nd belief	. I have read t	the in	nstructions given
Date				Signature					
OFFICIAL USE									
Fees Paid # Payment receipt No. Assistant Sign									
I have scrutinized the above service on ships subject to	• •		with applicable guidelines.	. Candidate is Eli į	gible / N	ot Eligib	le for Issuanc	e of	Certificate of Proficiency for
CERTIFICATE NO			Sigr	Signature of Duly Officer					
In Capacity of	In Capacity of				Name	of Office	er		
Dated					Desi	ignatio	n		

Annexure-IV

(Company Letter Head with office address and contact details) To. Date: The Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department Sir/Madam, Sub: Issuance of Certificate of Proficiency for Basic/ Advanced for ships subject to IGF code This is to certify that Mr/Ms______, CDC No_____, INDOS No. holding Certificate of Competency No._____ issued on _____ has served in the capacity as ____onboard vessel(s) owned/Tech. managed by ____ whose full style business address is as below, We certify that sea service performed by the above-mentioned seafarer in the last five years as per attached record on each of the following vessels are as below, Type of vessel Service (Indicate "Yes" or "No "or "N/A") Name IMO No Carried as cargo -fuels Using gases or low Vessel subject to Vessel To Rank covered by the IGF flash From IGF code point fuel as fuel Code A] Number of Bunkering operations carried on ships subject to IGF Code B:1] Number of Cargo loading operations carried out on ships in the category mentioned at Part I para 7 of this circular B:2] Number of Internal transfers carried out on such ships after loading of the fuel as cargo. C] Number of cargo operation carried out on Liquefied gas tanker

of

Name, Designation and company seal.