

Procedure for obtaining Certificate of Competency as "Master of a Home-Trade Ship (below 3,000 gross tonnage) limited to service on "the coast of India and its surrounding Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on Offshore Support Vessel" under STCW 95 for serving/retired Indian Naval Officers

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Subject: Procedure for obtaining Certificate of Competency as "Master of a Home-Trade Ship (below 3,000 gross tonnage) limited to service on "the coast of India and its surrounding Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on Offshore Support Vessel" under STCW 95 for serving/retired Indian Naval Officers

Executive summary:

Introduction

The international Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers (STCW) of 1978 as amended, has established minimum standards of competence for personnel serving at sea in order to promote safety of life at sea and protection of the marine environment. The STCW Convention makes it mandatory for all Parties to prescribe framework for minimum standards of training, experience, examination and certification for each certificate under a quality system.

The scope of the STCW Convention extends to all seafarers serving on board seagoing ships. Understanding certain commonality of navigation in the high seas for merchant ship and man-of-war and appreciating the nature of duties on such ship, the STCW Convention under Article III states that each Party shall ensure, by adoption of appropriate measures not impairing the operations or operational capabilities of such ships [warships and naval auxiliaries] owned and operated by it, that the persons serving on board such ships meet the requirements of the convention so far as is reasonable and practicable.

After extensive deliberation by a Joint Working Group comprising of representatives from the Naval Headquarters, the Directorate General of Shipping and the Indian Shipping Industry this notice is being promulgated.

For the purpose of this notice "Offshore Support Vessel (OSV)" means a vessel which is primarily used for the transportation of stores, materials, equipment or personnel to, from and between offshore installations including Towing and Anchor Handling Operations and upon meeting the Offshore industry requirements w.r.t. sea service, experience as applicable, the scope of the scheme would be extended to include specialized vessels of Offshore Sector such as Multipurpose Support Vessels, Platform Support Vessels, DSV, AHTSV, Special Purpose Vessels, Seismic Research Vessels, Pipe Laying Vessels, ROV Support Vessels, FPSO/FSO. Additional requirements under STCW 78/2010 (as amended) with respect to sea service, experience and certification in consultation with

the stakeholders shall apply to extend the term to Inter Island Passenger liner and Dredgers etc, under this scheme

Objective :

Objective of this M.S. Notice is to prescribe the procedures for obtaining Certificate of Competency (Limited) under Regulation II/2 STCW 78 Convention as amended for "Master of a Home-Trade Ship (below 3,000 gross tonnage) limited to service on "the coast of India and its surrounding Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on Offshore Support Vessel" under STCW 95 and MS (STCW) Rules, 1998 for Indian Naval Officer who have served in the Executive Branch of Defence.

Definitions:

In this MS Notice, definitions as stipulated in the MS (STCW) Rules, 1998 will be applicable unless the context otherwise requires.

Enabling Provisions for the issuance of Certificate of Competency (CoC):

A Certificate of Competency (Limited) may be issued under the Regulation II/2 of the STCW Convention 1978 as amended and MS (STCW) Rules, 1998 for "Master on ships (Master of a Home-Trade Ship) of between 500 and 3,000 gross tonnage operating in Near-Coastal Voyages" limited to service on "Off Shore Support Vessels operating in Indian territorial waters and EEZ" under the following provisions:

- i. Article III (a) of the STCW 1978 Convention, as far as various competencies under Navigation function are concerned.
- ii. Regulation I/3 of the STCW 95 - Principles governing near-coastal voyages
- iii. Regulation II/2 of the STCW 95 - Master and chief mate on ships of between 500 and 3,000 gross tonnage
- iv. Para 8, Section A-II/2 of STCW Code A - "An Administration may issue a certificate restricted to service on ships engaged exclusively on near-coastal voyages and, for the issue of such a certificate, may exclude such subjects as are not applicable to the waters or ships concerned, bearing in mind the effect on the safety of all ships which may be operating in the same waters."
- v. Sec. 456 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 - Power to exempt
- vi. Rule No. 46 of the MS(STCW) Rules, 1998 - Power to exempt
- vii. Category of Certificate of Competency awarded under the scheme:

Certificate of Competency shall be granted for the following grade: "Master of a Home-Trade Ship (below 3,000 gross tonnage) limited to service on "the coast of India and its surrounding Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on Offshore Support Vessel" under STCW 95 and MS (STCW) Rules, 1998.

Format of the Certificate of Competency issued under this scheme is attached to this notice as [Annexure I](#).

Quality Standards:

Naval/other institutes imparting training are to ensure that their training procedures and internal assessments are continuously monitored through established quality standards systems including the qualifications and experience of instructors and assessors as prescribed under Regulation I/8 and I/6 of STCW 95 respectively.

Standards of Medical fitness:

Every candidate for certification shall provide satisfactory proof of a medical fitness certificate including eyesight and hearing as prescribed in the Merchant Shipping (Medical Examination) Rules, as applicable.

Seagoing service Eligibility:

Minimum 54 months service on sea-going ships of the Indian Navy/Coast Guard, of which at least 24 months of service shall be performed as independent bridge watch-keeping officer.

Should have obtained a full Naval (or equivalent in Indian Coast Guard Service) watch-keeping certificate.

Examination System and Certification Procedure:

The STCW Convention prescribes the syllabus for training and assessment under various competencies for certificate of competency for Master on ships of between 500 and 3,000 gross tonnage. These are grouped under four functions including the Radio communications function (Chapter IV). The Administration may issue a certificate of competency restricted to service on ships engaged exclusively on near-coastal voyages and, for the issue of such a certificate, may exclude such subjects as are not applicable to the waters or ships concerned, bearing in mind the effect on the safety of all ships which may be operating in the same waters.

Broadly the examination and certification procedure consists of the following elements

Assessment of Naval/Coast Guard Sea Service

Modular Courses

Preparatory course of 1 month duration at NAMAC, Mumbai or any other DGS approved institute.

Written examination conducted by MMD at NAMAC, Mumbai or any other DGS approved institute,

"Hands on Training" of 3 months duration on OSV under SSTP for officers who have served at sea for at least 12 months in last 5 years. In all other cases, such service would be of 4 months duration under SSTP

Oral examination conducted by a panel approved by the DGS.

The Joint Working Group constituted for this purpose compared the syllabus of the Naval training and that required under Regulation II/2 (excluding such subjects as are not applicable to the waters or ships concerned under the purview of this scheme) for issuance of the Certificate of Competency for "Master of a Home-Trade Ship (less than 3,000 gross tonnage) limited to service on "the coast of India and its surrounding Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on Offshore Support Vessel"

The syllabi for the preparatory course/written examination and oral examination is attached as Annexure II and Annexure III respectively

Candidate shall apply for assessment of his Naval/Coast Guard sea service for his eligibility under the said scheme at the Mercantile Marine Department, the assessment centres of Directorate.

The candidate shall successfully complete all the prescribed modular courses and obtain the appropriate certificates. It is recommended to complete all the modular courses prior to attending the preparatory courses, however, the candidate shall complete all the prescribed modular courses prior to booking for the written examination.

The validity of modular courses shall be 5 years for the purpose of written examination, oral examination and applying for the CoC.

Following is the list of modular courses to be successfully completed by the candidates:

Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities Course (PSSR)

Advanced Fire Fighting Course (AFF)

Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Course (PSCRB)

Medical Care Course (MC)

Ship Security Officer Course (SSO)

Radar Observer Simulator Course (ROC)

Automatic Radar Plotting Aid Course (ARPA)

Radar, ARPA and Navigational Simulator Course (RANSCO)

Electronic Chart Display and Information System Course (ECDIS)*

Global Maritime Distress and Safety System Course (GMDSS)

Ship Maneuvering Simulator Course (SMS)

Candidates are exempted from attending the following modular courses - Personal Survival Techniques, Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting, Elementary First Aid.

Additional Modular courses that may be included for Merchant Navy training under Regulation II/2 of STCW1978 as amended.

Essential for ECDIS fitted ships

Preparatory course of 1 month duration covering the syllabus detailed in Annexure II shall be conducted at the NAMAC, Mumbai or any other DGS approved institutes. On successful completion of the course and passing the internal assessment by the institute the candidate shall be issued with a course completion certificate by such institute. The validity of the preparatory course completion certificate is 5 years for the purpose of eligibility for written examination. After obtaining the preparatory course completion certificate and successful completion of all the prescribed modular courses the candidate can appear in the written examination which will be conducted by the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD), at NAMAC or any other DGS approved institutes. The written examination shall consist of one paper of three hours duration covering the syllabus detailed in [Annexure II](#). Such examination is proposed to be conducted every alternate month. The passing percentage for the written examination shall be 60%.

The institute conducting such course shall prepare course outline and detailed teaching syllabus based on the syllabus prepared by the Joint Working Group as per [Annexure-II](#) and take approval from the DGS for the conduct of the course. The minimum number of candidates per batch, for conducting this course and written examination at such institutes shall be 10.

The validity of the passing of written examination shall be 5 years for the purpose of applying for the purpose of obtaining dispensation for "Hand on Training"/Dispensation and for the issuance of the Certificate of Competency under this scheme.

On successful completion of the written examination, the candidate shall be issued with a partial pass certificate by the Directorate General of Shipping. This certificate shall have in-built provision for dispensation to work in capacity as NWKO (NCV) under prescribed Minimum Safe Manning Document (MSMD) issued to vessel, in order to facilitate such officer to complete his qualifying sea service of 3 months* of "Hands on Training" on the Offshore Support Vessels. However, shipping companies/employers are urged to employ such senior ex-navy officers as "Additional First Mate" under the supervision, as far as practicable, of a senior Master. Such Hands on training shall be covered under the "Shipboard Structured Training Programme (SSTP)". The SSTP shall be developed by NAMAC/other approved institutes/industry consultations to keep options of furthering the career progression on dredgers/passenger vessels and other specialized vessels, open.

3 months duration on OSV under SSTP for officers who have served at sea for at least 12 months in last 5 years. In all other cases, such service would be of 4 months duration under SSTP.

On successful completion of "Hands on Training" under the SSTP the candidate may approach any Mercantile Marine Department examination centres, Mumbai for assessment of his sea service on OSV for eligibility to appear for the oral examination. The syllabus for the oral examination is detailed in [Annexure III](#). The oral examination will be conducted at SCI, Mumbai once in a month. The oral examination will be conducted by a board of examiner consisting of an examiner from the Directorate General of Shipping assisted by an ex-Naval Officer with 3 years experience in Offshore Sector holding Certificate of Competency as Master (FG) who shall be nominated by the Navy and an Industry expert with 3 years experience in Offshore Sector holding Certificate of Competency as Master (FG) who shall be nominated by the Indian National Ship Owners Association. However, the oral examination can be conducted by an examiner from the Directorate General of Shipping with the assistance of only one member of the board i.e. from the Offshore Industry ex-naval officer. Such examiner should not actually be involved with training for the same examinee. The passing percentage for the oral examination shall be 60%. Chief Examiner of Master and Mates of the D. G. Shipping will continue to be the final authority on the conduct of all examination under the MS (STCW) Rules, 1998.

On successful completion of his oral examination, the candidate will be eligible to apply for the CoC issued under this scheme

Fees:

Fees for assessment and examination would be as per relevant provision of MS (STCW) Rules, 1998 as amended for Master of a Home Trade Ship.

General and Miscellaneous Provisions:

Provisions contained in Chapter I and Chapter IX of the MS (STCW) Rules, 1998 shall apply.

Flow chart for the above scheme is attached as [Annexure - IV](#) to this notice.

NOTE: Ex-Naval officers holding the certificate of competency issued under this MS Notice, upon fulfillment of further training, sea service/experience and certification, as prescribed from time to time in compliance of STCW 78 (as amended) and industry consultation, will have options open to career progression on vessels of other type, size and area of operation.

Directorate will host quarterly meeting with stakeholders/industry in this regard to facilitate career progression of such ex-naval officers.

This notice may be amended/repealed for compliance with requirements laid down under STCW 1978 as amended and MS (STCW) Rules, as amended

This issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping and Ex-Officio Addl. Secretary to the Government of India.

Sd/-

Capt. S. K. Shukla)

Dy. Nautical Advisor to the GOI