



# IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SEAFARERS

Safeguard Your Career | Prevent Fraud |  
Verify Integrity

*A public notice issued by the Directorate General of Shipping in the interest of seafarer welfare and the integrity of Indian Seafarer Certifications.*





# BEWARE OF MISINFORMATION!

Recent discussions and social media chatter appear to have led to misinformation campaign regarding DGS Circular No. 31 of 2025 and DGS Order No. 8 of 2025. The **Directorate General of Shipping (DGS)** wishes to provide official clarification on these matters to prevent further misunderstanding within the maritime community.

## Misinformation

Unverified social media posts and discussions have misinterpreted official DGS communications, leading to unnecessary panic among seafarers holding foreign COCs about their employment status.

## The Facts

The DGS circular 31/2025 is issued to protect legitimate seafarers while preventing fraud, not to restrict genuine professionals from pursuing their maritime careers.

## Official Clarification

This Notice is issued as a definitive explanation of DGS policies regarding foreign Certificates of Competency and the verification process required to maintain integrity in the industry.

The DGS recognizes the vital importance of clear communication regarding regulatory matters that affect the livelihoods of thousands of maritime professionals. This notice aims to address concerns and provide factual information directly from the authoritative source, helping seafarers navigate these requirements with confidence.



# THERE IS NO BAN ON FOREIGN COCs

## Existing Foreign CoC Holders

**If you already possess a Certificate of Competency (CoC) from a foreign maritime administration**, and it is **not listed** in DGS Circular 31 of 2025, you are **still eligible to sail**, provided your certification is genuine and meets the requirements of the STCW Convention

## Validation Window

A **30-day validation window** has been provided for seafarers holding such COCs to submit their documents through their respective RPSL agencies for verification.

## Verification Process

Upon successful **verification and authentication**, there will be **no restriction** on your continued employment in the Merchant Navy.

## Transparent Process

The DGS has put in place a **transparent, rule-based, and institutionally backed verification process** to distinguish genuine seafarers from fraudulent applicants.



# MTIs: RULE-BASED APPROACH

The DGS has established a systematic approach to regulate Maritime Training Institutions (MTIs) that conduct training courses towards foreign CoC/CoPs to ensure they meet international standards while protecting seafarers from potentially fraudulent operations.



## Existing DGS approved MTIs

Can continue operations after undergoing verification and obtaining approval from DGS

- Must demonstrate compliance with STCW standards
- Required to follow DGS-approved procedures
- Subject to periodic compliance reviews
- The institutes conducting UK MCA approved courses can continue if the details are shared with the DGS as per the guidelines.



## New MTIs

- Apply to DGS seeking approval.
- Thorough assessment before commencing activities
- Required to demonstrate adequate facilities and faculty
- Must establish transparent administrative processes
- Must complete pre-operational verification



# GENUINE SEAFARERS ARE PROTECTED. FRAUDULENT PRACTICES WILL FACE ACTION.

## For Genuine Certificate Holders

If your certification and training documentation are legitimate, the verification process established by the DGS offers several important benefits:

- **Career Protection:** Verification creates an official record of your legitimate qualifications, protecting you from being confused with holders of fraudulent documents.
- **Enhanced Credibility:** Successfully verified certificates carry additional weight with potential employers who can trust the DGS verification.
- **International Recognition:** The verification process aligns with international maritime standards, potentially improving your employability globally.
- **Industry Integrity:** By participating in verification, you contribute to maintaining the excellent reputation of Indian seafarers worldwide.

## For Fraudulent Certificate Holders

The DGS takes certification fraud extremely seriously as it endangers maritime safety and damages the reputation of legitimate Indian seafarers. If fraudulent documentation is detected:

- **Reporting to Authorities:** Cases will be reported to the concerned foreign administration that purportedly issued the certificate.
- **Disqualification:** Individuals may be disqualified from maritime service pending investigation.
- **Legal Consequences:** Criminal charges may be pursued depending on the nature and extent of the fraud.
- **Industry Blacklisting:** Names may be added to a registry of individuals who have attempted to circumvent proper certification.



# WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

## Submit Your Documents

If you hold a CoC/CoP from a foreign administration not listed in DGS Circular 31 of 2025:

- Submit your documents via your RPSL agency within 30 days (by **04 September 2025**).

## Await Verification

Await confirmation of verification by DGS.

## Continue Sailing

Continue sailing if verified.

### Important Deadline

All document submissions must be completed by **04 September 2025** through your RPSL agency.



## NEED HELP?

For queries or clarifications:

Deck Officers

 [nt-stcw@gov.in](mailto:nt-stcw@gov.in)

Marine Engineers

 [engg-stcw@gov.in](mailto:engg-stcw@gov.in)



"This verification initiative is not designed to penalize genuine seafarers but to protect them by distinguishing their legitimate qualifications from fraudulent ones."

— Directorate General of Shipping



# Protect Your Profession. Respect the Process.