

Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India, Mumbai		
Authorized by: Chief Examiner of Master and Mates	Examination, Assessment & Certification (EAC) Branch	IS / ISO Clause No. 7.5.1
	Subject- Re-validation and Up-gradation of Certificate of Competency (COC) for Masters and Deck Officers - Clarifications — reg.	File No. 3-NT(6)/2015
	Nautical Wing - Examination Circular No. 01 of 2016 –	Issue No.0 dated 15.01.2016

1. Background:

- 1.1. The Directorate has issued the STCW 2010 Circular No. 12 of 2012 on 31.01.2012 stipulating the requirements for undertaking the Refresher and Updating Training Course (RUT - Up-gradation Course from STCW 1995 to STCW 2010) for Masters and deck officers in accordance with the requirements of STCW Convention as amended in 2010 (STCW 2010).
- 1.2. The said circular provided a representative flowchart highlighting various categories of personnel required to undertake the refresher and updating training course (Up-gradation Course) is attached as Annexure II. The RUT course which varies from 5 days for operational level COC holders to 11 days for management level COC holders.
- 1.3. Subsequently, the Directorate has issued the Training, Examination and Assessment Programme (TEAP manual – Part-A), which explains the requirements for re-validation and up-gradation of COC for Masters and Deck Officers. It is to be noted that the thousands of officers have already re-validated and up-graded their COC after completing the said course since 2012.
- 1.4. Pursuant to the notification of MS (STCW) Rules 2014, the COC of officers are being renewed for a period of five years from the date of completion of RUT course. But, prior to notification of the revised STCW rules, i.e. between years 2012 and 2014, the validity of COC was restricted up-to 31st Dec 2016, even though the officers have completed the RUT courses as per STCW 2010 syllabus.
- 1.5. Similarly, during the period between 2012 and 2014, even the fresh COCs, i.e. after passing the necessary competency examinations, for the officers, were issued with a validity up-to 31st Dec 2016. It is to be noted that during this period many of them have completed their competency courses under the revised STCW 2010 syllabus. Hence such candidates will not be required to undergo the said RUT course.
- 1.6. Currently, many of the officers are approaching the Mercantile Marine Departments for extension of validity of their COC for a full period of five years. In this respect the Directorate is receiving numerous queries from the seafarer's and the MMDs about the maximum period, up-to which a COC of an officer can be extended or re-validated.
- 1.7. Realizing the fact that the large number of seafarers will be approaching the MMDs either for extension of validity of their fresh COC for a full period of five years or for re-validation and up-gradation of COC, the Directorate hereby issues the following directives and clarifications with respect to the maximum period, for which a validity of COC can be extended or re-validated.

2. Clarifications regarding the applicable maximum validity period of COC:

2.1 In order to provide the necessary clarifications, the officers can be broadly divided under the following three categories:

Category-A: Officers who have obtained their fresh COC as deck officer (including Master) after passing the required competency examinations as per MS (STCW), 2014 Rule, during the period between 2012 and 2014, but the validity of their COC was restricted up-to 31st Dec 2016.

Category-B: Officers who have re-validated their COC by undertaking the RUT course, either after its expiry date or within one year prior to the expiry date, during the period between 2012 and 2014, but the validity of their COC was restricted up-to 31st Dec 2016.

Category-C: Officers presently (from 1st Jan 2016 onwards) coming for re-validation and up-gradation of COC in view of its expiry date or within one year prior to its expiry date, who are/will be doing the RUT course now.

The clarifications have been given in the form of different illustrations, which should be considered for deciding the validity of COC of each category of an officer:

Illustration – 1: An officer 'ABC' falling under the Category-A:

- An officer 'ABC' who was holding STCW 1995 Chief Mate (FG) COC earlier, obtained his Master's COC on Jan 2014 under MS (STCW), 2014.
- He has also completed the 11 day RUT course in Oct 2013, prior to joining the ASM course and completed all the other courses such as ECDIS and refresher courses in Jan 2014.
- But his Master's COC was given with a validity up-to 31st Dec 2016.
- **Procedure for extension of Validity of his COC:** Candidate may make an application to any of the MMDs for Up-gradation of his COC from STCW 1995 to STCW 2010. Since he has already done the necessary RUT course and other courses, he need not do any additional course now. In his case, sea service requirements for re-validation of COC will also not be applicable.
- **Maximum period of extension of his COC:** The Mercantile Marine Department shall extend the validity of his COC for a period of five years from the date of passing the examination mentioned in the last page of the COC.

Illustration – 2: Another officer 'XYZ' falling under the Category-A:

- A seafarer 'XYZ' was holding STCW 1995 Second Mate FG COC earlier, obtained his Chief Mate FG COC on Oct 2013.
- He has not completed the 5 day RUT course, applicable for him, prior to joining the new Chief Mate FG course. But completed all the other courses such as ECDIS and refresher courses in Oct 2013.
- His Chief Mate's COC was given with a validity up-to 31st Dec 2016.
- **Procedure for extension of Validity of his COC:** Candidate may make an application to any of the MMDs for Up-gradation of his COC from STCW 1995 to STCW 2010. Since he has not

done the necessary RUT course then, he need to complete the 11 days RUT course as he is holding a management level CoC. In his case also, sea service requirements for re-validation of COC will not be applicable.

- **Maximum period of extension of his COC:** The Mercantile Marine Department shall extend the validity of his COC for a period of **five years from the date of passing the examination** mentioned in the last page of the COC.

Illustration – 3: Another officer 'LMN' falling under the Category-A:

- A cadet or rating 'LMN' obtained his first COC i.e. Second Mate (FG) on June 2014, after passing all the competency examinations.
- He has completed the second mate FG competency course of 4 months duration under the new STCW 2010 syllabus. He has also completed all the other courses such as ECDIS and refresher courses in May 2014.
- But his Second Mate FG COC was given with a validity up-to 31st Dec 2016 only.
- **Procedure for extension of Validity of his COC:** Candidate may make an application to any of the MMDs for Up-gradation of his COC from STCW 1995 to STCW 2010. Since he has done the Second Mate (FG) competency course under the new syllabus, he will not be required to attend any RUT course. In his case also, sea service requirements for re-validation of COC will not be applicable. (Note: Second Mate(FG) competency course under the new STCW 2010 syllabus started from Dec – 2010 onwards)
- **Maximum period of extension of his COC:** The Mercantile Marine Department shall extend the validity of his COC for a period of **five years from the date of passing the examination** mentioned in the last page of the COC.

Illustration – 4: A senior officer 'ABC' falling under the Category-B:

- A senior Master re-validated his COC in June 2013 after completion of 11 days RUT course.
- He had also completed all the other courses such as ECDIS and refresher courses in PST, PSCRB, FPFF and AFF in May 2013.
- But his Master FG COC was re-validated with a validity up-to 31st Dec 2016 only.
- **Procedure for extension of Validity of his COC for a full five year period:** Candidate may make an application to any of the MMDs for Up-gradation of his COC from STCW 1995 to STCW 2010. Since he had already done all the necessary courses, he will not be required to do any additional courses now. But, in case he could not complete some courses like ECDIS or refresher courses at that time i.e. in 2013, he needs to complete it now. The sea service requirements for re-validation of COC will not applicable for up-gradation of COC.
- **Maximum period of extension of his COC:** The Mercantile Marine Department shall extend the validity of his COC for a period of **five years from the date of completion of RUT course**.

Illustration – 5: Another Master Mariner 'XYZ' falling under the Category-B:

- A senior Master re-validated his COC in June 2012 after completion of 11 days RUT course.
- But he could not complete all the other courses such as ECDIS and refresher courses in PST, PSCRB, FPFF and AFF in 2012, since some of the course were not available at that time.

- Therefore his Master FG COC was re-validated with a validity up-to 31st Dec 2016 only, instead of full five years.
- **Procedure for re-validation and up-gradation /extension of validity of his COC for a full five year period:** Candidate may make an application to any of the MMDs for re-validation and Up-gradation of his COC from STCW 1995 to STCW 2010. Since he had already done the 11 days RUT course in 2012, he need not do it again now. But, he will be required to complete the remaining courses like ECDIS and refresher courses, since he did not complete it previously. The sea service requirements for re-validation of COC will also be applicable, if he wishes to revalidate his COC as well for another five years, along-with up-gradation of COC.
- **Maximum period of extension of his COC:** In such cases, the Mercantile Marine Department shall re-validate and up-grade his COC for a further period of five years from the date of re-validation. This provision will be applicable only for COCs with validity up-to 31st Dec 2016, if an officer submits his COC for re-validation prior to 31st Dec 2016.

Illustration – 6: A Master Mariner or Chief Mate 'XYZ' falling under the Category-C:

- A Master Mariner or Chief Mate 'XYZ' re-validated his STCW 1995 COC in May 2011 and the same due to expire in May 2016.
- In order to re-validate and up-grade his COC, he need to complete the 11 day RUT course, ECDIS course and other refresher courses in PST, PSCRB, FPFF and AFF now.
- **Procedure for re-validation and up-gradation of his COC for a full five year period:** He may make an application to any of the MMDs for re-validation and Up-gradation of his COC from STCW 1995 to STCW 2010. The MMDs will verify the status of completion of all the required courses as stated above. Additionally, the sea service requirements for re-validation of COC will be verified, since he is applying for re-validation of COC as well.
- **Maximum period of extension of his COC:** The Mercantile Marine Department shall extend the validity of his COC for a period of five years normally from the date of completion of RUT course. However, if he applies for re-validation within six months prior to its expiry date then the COC can be re-validated for a period of five years from the date of expiry.
- Example: a) If the expiry date of COC is 31st May 2016 and the candidate applies for re-validation on or after 1st Dec 2015 then the COC will be re-validated up-to 30th May 2021.
- Example b) If the expiry date of COC is 1st Jan 2016 and the candidate completes his RUT course on 10th Feb 2016, after the expiry date, and applies for re-validation at MMD on 20th Feb 2016, then the COC will be re-validated up-to 09th Feb 2021 only i.e. five years from the date of completion of RUT course.

2.2 The MMDs are directed to extend or re-validate the COCs based on the above illustrations with immediate effect. The seafarers are advised to take note of above clarifications and be guided accordingly. It is also to be noticed that the RUT course needs to be done only once by the seafarers for up-gradation of their COC from STCW 1995 to STCW 2010 standards. Furthermore, all the deck officers will be required to revalidate their CoC as prescribed under Rule 14 of MS (STCW) 2014 and Section I/11 of TEAP Manual.

2.3 All deck officers will be required to obtain their 'COC as GMDSS Radio Operator' from the MMDs at the time of up-gradation of their COC from STCW 1995 to STCW 2010 standards for which separate instructions will be issued.

2.4 However, all the candidates who have attended the Second Mate (FG) competency course under the new STCW 2010 syllabus (i.e. commenced after Dec 2010) will not be required to do any Refresher and Up-dating training (RUT) course for extending the validity of their certificates. Additionally it is to be borne in mind that the refresher courses in PST, PSCRB, FPFF and AFF needs to be done only when the original course was done more than five years earlier.

2.5 All the stakeholders are hereby informed that any COC issued or revalidated with validity beyond 31st Dec 2016 is deemed to have complied with all the requirements of MS (STCW), 2014. There is absolutely no need for obtaining any additional stamp or endorsement in COC to that effect. The Mercantile Marine Departments will not entertain any such request from the shipping companies.

3.0 This issues with the approval of the Chief Examiner of Master and Mates.



(Capt. R.K. Muduli)

Nautical Surveyor-cum-DDG(Tech)