



भारत सरकार/ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING  
नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

## DGS Order 29 of 2020

File No: 13-11014/11/2020-ENGG - DGS	Dated: 05.10.2020
Subject: Reduction in Approved Sea-going Service for appearing MEO Class-I grade CoC Examination - European Maritime Safety Agency Audit – Removal of ‘pro-rata’ reference from rule 37 (2) (b) of Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014.	

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) audits various Maritime Administrations to verify the compliance and implementation of the provisions of STCW Convention to ensure uniform standards amongst the seafarers employed on European flagged vessels.

2. Whereas the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), to continue its policy to enhance employment opportunities for Indian seafarers, offers its system comprising Training, Assessment, Examination and Certification under STCW Convention for EMSA audit.

3. Whereas during the EMSA audit conducted in the year 2019, it was pointed out that the verbatim "pro-rata" stated in Rule 37 (2) (b) of Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014 is not in line with Section 2.1.1.2 of Regulation III/2 of Chapter III of STCW, 1978, as amended leading to misinterpretation in implementing the requirement of STCW 2010 amendment.

4. Whereas the aforesaid “pro-rata” provision is included in MS (STCW) Rules, 2014, for the reasons that the STCW Convention is silent on pro-rata provision and no-where it states that the Administration cannot give benefit of reduction in approved sea going service to seafarers who have completed less than 12 months’ sea going service as second engineer officer and also due to the fact that 6 months reduction only is allowed in approved sea going service as against the provision of 12 months reduction in STCW Convention.

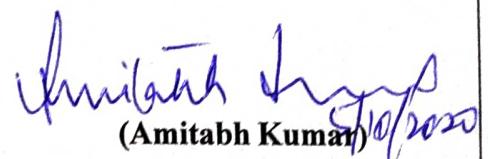
5. Notwithstanding the foregoing, there is a need to address the aforesaid EMSA finding for the continued recognition of the Indian Certificate of Competency by the European countries. Unless, it is addressed, it may impact the employment opportunities of Indian chief engineer officers on European flag vessels.

6. Therefore upon reviewing the suggestions to address the observations of EMSA Audit and to ensure no difficulties are being faced by Indian seafarers on ships flagged in Maritime Nations of European Union, the Director General of Shipping in exercise of the power under section 456 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1958, as amended and read with the Rule 74 (1) of MS (STCW) Rules, 2014, has decided to delete the word "pro-rata" from Rule 37 (2) (b) of said Rules. Consequently, the word pro-rata is omitted from the rule 37 (2) (b) of MS (STCW) Rules, 2014 and also from other various Circulars viz *Engineering circular no. 07/2018, Training circular No 14 of 2012 issued on 06.03.2012 & its corrigendum issued on 28.03.2012 and in TEAP manual (Chap. III/17, III/19, III/50 and III/51), etc.* Henceforth, no reduction in Approved Sea Going service is to be granted to candidates intending to appear in MEO Class I grade CoC examination if they have not completed minimum 12 months of sea going service as second engineer officer while holding MEO Class II grade CoC. It has also been decided to reduce the Approved Sea Going service from 36 months to 24 months instead of 30 months to align with STCW provisions. Accordingly, the rule 37(2) (b) is to be read as –

*"have approved sea-going service as Engineer Officer in Charge of an Engineering Watch on ships of 750 kW or more for a period of not less than thirty six months which shall include not less than twelve months as holder of certificate of competency as provided under clause (a):*

*Provided that the period of thirty six months shall be reduced to twenty four months, if twelve months of such seagoing service has been served as second engineer officer on a sea-going ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 3,000 kW propulsion power or more"*

7. This Order comes into force from the date of its issuance.

  
(Amitabh Kumar)

Director General of Shipping  
& Additional Secretary to the GoI.

To - INSA/ICSSA/Seafarers Union/ all stake holders/seafarers concerned through DGS Website.