



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS



नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

File No: 20-18/1/2023-TRG - DGS

Dated: 27.02.2024

DGS Circular No. 03 of 2024

Sub: Validity of combined certificate for basic safety training, as required as per Chapter VI, Part A of Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) Code, 1978 as amended - reg.

1. Whereas, The STCW Code, 1978 as amended, Part A, Chapter VI deals with standards regarding emergency, occupational safety, security, medical care, and survival functions. The Section A-VI/1 of the above chapter mentions the minimum mandatory requirements for safety familiarization, basic training, and instructions for all seafarers. The item 2, Section A-VI/1, Chapter VI of the STCW code, as amended describes the basic training requirements for seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity on board ship, on the business of that ship, as part of the ship's complement with designated safety or pollution prevention duties in the operation of the ship.

2. Whereas, Basic training consists of training or instruction in Personal Survival Techniques (PST) as set out in table A – VI/ 1-1, Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (FPFF) as set out in table A- VI/ 1-2, Elementary First Aid (EFA) as set out in table A- VI/ 1-3, and Personal Safety and Social Responsibility (PSSR) as set out in table set out in table A- VI/ 1-4.

3. Whereas, the four basic STCW courses such as PST, FPFF, EFA & PSSR being of short durations, independently conducted and separate course completion certificate were issued for each. Procedures for issuing separate certificates involved excessive paperwork, increased manpower and resources and substantially complicated the verification and monitoring of basic STCW certificates. The Directorate, in its endeavour to simplify the procedures and for effective control and monitoring of certificates issued to seafarers vide DGS Training Circular No. 06 of 2018, dated 21.03.2018 issued directives to all Maritime Training Institutes (MTI) to issue single combined certificate for the four basic courses mentioned above and were listed as "Basic STCW Safety Training" in the e-governance system.

4. Whereas, The DGS Training Circular No. 6 of 2018, dated 21.03.2018, further directed that validity of this combined Basic STCW Safety Course certificate is to be of UNLIMITED validity from the date of issue, subject to the seafarer completing a refresher training, every 5 years for Personal Survival Techniques and Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting course.

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5. Pursuant to the restrictions prevalent during the COVID Pandemic, the Directorate took cognizance of the conditions and through DGS Order 17 of 2021, dated 01.05.2021, permitted the Basic Safety Training Course to be divided into two parts as "Part A" and "Part B". The "Part A" certificate was to be issued with validity of 18 months for those seafarers who had completed the said "Basic STCW Safety Course" following the three-tier learning mechanism without practicals. The "Part B" certificate was to be issued with full validity to those seafarers who have acquired "Part A" certificate and have completed the practical at the MTI.

6. The digitally generated "Part B" certificate was to have the same certificate number as the "Part A" certificate. The "Part B" certificate shall have an UNLIMITED validity for the Basic STCW Safety Course, subject to the seafarer completing a refresher training, every 5 years for Personal Survival Techniques and Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting, (as from the date of issue of "Part A") in accordance to the description of the Basic STCW Safety Course as was prescribed in the DGS Training Circular No. 6 of 2018, dated 21.03.2018, and as described in para no. 4 above.

7. Furthermore, the Directorate instructed vide DGS Order No. 11 of 2022, dated 22.03.2022, that the issuance of "Part A" and "Part B" Certificate for courses was to be cease with effect from 21.03.2022 with an exception for those seafarers who already have Valid "Part A" and were yet to complete "Part B".

8. All seafarers commencing the Basic STCW Safety Course after 21.03.2022 were directed once again to be issued a combined single certificate for the said course which shall have an UNLIMITED validity, subject to the seafarer completing a refresher training, every 5 years for Personal Survival Techniques and Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting course, in accordance to the description of the Basic Safety Course as was prescribed in the DGS Training Circular No. 6 of 2018, dated 21.03.2018, and as described in para no. 4 above.

9. The Directorate hereby clarifies that all Basic STCW Safety Course certificates issued as a single consolidated certificate or as parts as "Part A" and "Part B" certificates, shall be considered as having UNLIMITED validity, subject to the seafarer completing a refresher training, every 5 years, for Personal Survival Techniques and Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting courses.

10. This is issued with the approval of the Director General of Shipping, Govt. of India.



(Savita Raj)
Executive officer (Trg.)