

Directorate General of Shipping (DGS)
Training Circular No. [XXX], [Date-XXX]

Subject: Amendment to Existing DGS Training Circulars on Swimming Pool Facilities, Pool Dimensions, and Compliance for Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs)

SECTION 'A'

1. Whereas, the Directorate has issued Training Circular No. 4 of 2018, dated 23 January 2018 and Training Circular No. 07 of 2018 dated 21.03.2018 specified mandatory swimming pool dimensions required by Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs) to conduct practical courses. Deliberations in the STCW Compliance Board Meeting has reviewed and amended the swimming pool requirements as outlined below.
2. Whereas, all new MTIs planning to offer pre-sea courses must have an on-campus swimming pool. The pool must have a minimum length of 50 feet, a breadth of 30 feet, and a depth that varies longitudinally from 3 feet at the shallow end to 12 feet at the deep end.
3. **Depth-Restricted Pools**
Whereas, the existing Pre-sea MTIs or Post Sea MTI conducting BST Training Course with pools shallower than 12 feet and approved prior to 21 August 2018 (date of issue of Training Circular 7 of 2018) must secure tie-up arrangements with MTIs meeting the depth requirement for conducting "Personal Survival Techniques" (PST) practical's or have an additional arrangement of separate pool with depth of 12 feet required for jumping from 2 meters from water surface for practical's purpose.
4. Whereas, to ensure standardization, the height of the jumping platform should ideally be 2 meters above the water surface of the swimming pool.
5. Whereas, the Maritime Training Institutes located in areas where the State Government restrictions apply on the depth of swimming pool in an educational institute, may have a tie-up arrangement with DGS approved MTI having a swimming pool compliant with the requirements.
6. Whereas, the Certain pre-sea MTIs have yet to meet the mandatory requirements in Paragraph 2 of Circular No. 7 of 2018. The Directorate reiterates that compliance is compulsory and no further period will be provided.

7. Whereas, any Section 8 Company or Trust applying to establish a Pre-Sea or Post-Sea Institute for BST/Ref. PST or other courses requiring swimming pools must ensure a compliant pool is in place by the time of Final Approval. In no condition any extension or exemption from the requirement of swimming pool will be allowed to Institute who has obtained In-principle approval.
8. Hygiene and Safety Standards
MTIs are required to maintain proper hygiene, including:
 - 24-hour CCTV surveillance around the pool.
 - Filtration operation during swim sessions, as well as two hours before and after.
 - Water quality maintenance: chlorine levels at 2.0 PPM (within 1.0–3.0 PPM) and pH between 7.2 and 7.8, with 7.4 being ideal.
 - Chlorine testing 45 minutes prior to sessions, with samples taken at multiple points and recorded in a log verified by the instructor.
 - Routine cleaning of all washroom facilities.
9. Whereas, the MTIs must perform regular pool water testing through authorized laboratories like the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), India.
10. Whereas, all Post-sea institutes must comply with swimming pool requirements. In case if any existing MTI having tie-up with other MTI for practical training facilities must construct swimming of its own within a period of **six months** from the issuance of this circular or else the approved course where practical's require use of swimming pool will deemed to be withdrawal.
11. Whereas, for new MTIs, the maximum allowable distance between the main campus and any practical facility of their own (such as a fire drill or swimming pool) is 80 kilometres {10 Km or more they have to publicize to candidates about the travel more than 10 Km}.
12. Whereas, this circular supersedes Paragraph 6 of Training Circular No. 4 of 2018 (dated 23 January 2018) and DGS Circular No. 7 of 2018 (dated 21 March 2018).

SECTION 'B'

Specifications for Waterbody (PSCRB Training)

1. Whereas, the Directorate has issued Training Circular No. 12 of 2005, dated 25 February 2005, outlined guidelines for "Proficiency in Survival Craft & Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats (PSCRB)." The Annexure I of the said circular mention waterbody specification. With this amendment, waterbody specifications are updated as follows:

- MTIs requiring a waterbody for PSCRB practical lessons may use a lake, sea (harbor or estuarial waters), or a man-made waterbody/artificial waterbody.
- However, if the institute intends to conduct the practical lessons in artificial lake or artificial waterbody then the area of the lake or waterbody should sufficient (min 5500 sq.mt) in order to facilitate launching and manoeuvring of life boat and rescue boat upto a speed of 6 knots, picking up of survivors, towing and marshalling life rafts etc.
- The practical lessons of lifeboat and rescue boat should not be conducted in swimming pools. Only wet drills associated with PDCRB course should be conducted in swimming pool only wet drills associated with PSCRB course should be conducted in swimming pool meeting and requirements of DGS guidelines.
- Sections A, Paragraphs 10 and 11, are also applicable here.

2. Alternate Waterbody Provision for Coastal MTIs

MTIs in coastal regions that use sea-based training facilities (in harbor or estuarial waters) must provide an alternate waterbody for training during the monsoon season when high waves or rough seas make outdoor training hazardous. When such an area is used adequate safety precautions such as lifeguard and permission from local authorities be available.

Issued with the approval of the Director General of Shipping.

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To:

1. All Maritime Training Institutes
2. All Principal Officers, MMD

3. NT, Engineering Wing
4. IT & E-gov. Branch.

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