

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

Subject: Discontinuation of Exit Exams for Refresher Courses

1. Introduction

Whereas the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended, establishes rigorous standards for seafarer training, certification, and watchkeeping, the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) hereby issues this circular to discontinue the requirement for exit exams in specified refresher courses.

2. Background and Rationale

1. STCW 2010 as Amended

With the entry into force of the 2010 amendments to the STCW Convention on January 1, 2012, seafarers requiring Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) in the following competencies are mandated to undergo refresher training every five years, as outlined in DGS STCW Circular No. 6 of 2011:

- Personal Survival Techniques (PST)
- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (FPPF)
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats (PSCRB)
- Advanced Fire Fighting (AFF)

2. Competency Maintenance Requirements

Seafarers must demonstrate continued competency in the standards detailed in Tables A-VI/1-1, A-VI/1-2, A-VI/2-1, and A-VI/3 of the STCW Code every five years.

3. Additional Refresher Course Mandates

- **Engineering Circular 143/2018 dated 26.03.2018** established refresher training requirements for the revalidation of Certificates of Competency (CoC) for engineering personnel every five years.
- **MS Notice 13 of 2020 dated 04.11.2020** clarified that Medical First Aid and Medical Care do not require revalidation every five years as per STCW, 2010 as amended.

- **MS Notice 7 of 2023 dated 14.06.2024** similarly established revalidation training for all Nautical Grade CoCs.

4. Online Exit Exam Implementation

Whereas, the DGS Circular 17 of 2020 introduced online exit exams for uniform candidate assessment in STCW modular courses.

5. Pandemic Response Measures

Whereas, during the COVID-19 pandemic vide DGS Order 20 of 2020 dated 03.08.2020 implemented a three-tier learning mechanism comprising E-Learning, virtual classes, and online exit exams. This was due to restricted access to Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs).

6. Reopening of MTIs

Whereas, DGS Order 11 of 2022 dated 22.03.2022 allowed MTIs to resume in-person training at full capacity, facilitating unhindered access to refresher courses.

7. Practical Nature of Refresher Courses

Whereas, the refresher courses listed below are primarily practical with limited theoretical content:

- Refresher in Personal Survival Techniques (PST)
- Refresher in Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (FPFF)
- Refresher in Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boat other than Fast Rescue Boats (PSCRB)
- Refresher in Advanced Fire Fighting (AFF)

8. Whereas, the Directorate has received feedback highlighting candidate difficulties and inconvenience caused by the exit examination requirement for certain refresher and revalidation courses.

9. Whereas, in light of the above considerations, the Directorate has determined that exit examinations will no longer apply to the following refresher courses:

- Refresher in Personal Survival Techniques (PST)
- Refresher in Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (FPFF)
- Refresher in Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boat other than Fast Rescue Boats (PSCRB)
- Refresher in Advanced Fire Fighting (AFF)
- Refresher in Medical Care
- Refresher in Medical First Aid

- Refresher and Updating Training Course for Engineers

10. All Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs) are directed to conduct internal assessments for the refresher courses listed above and to maintain comprehensive records of candidate performance. These records must be available for inspection and auditing by the Directorate as needed.

11. These issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping.

(Deependra Singh Bisen)
Dy. Director General of Shipping (Training)

To:

1. All Maritime Training Institutes
2. All Principal Officers, MMD
3. NT, Engineering Wing
4. IT & E-gov. Branch.