

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SHIPPING		
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DYCS	Instructions to Examiners	Circular 021
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The Matter of Watch-keepers on board small coastal vessels (OSVs, Mini Bulk Carriers, Tugs etc.) has been under scrutiny for some time and the following decisions are issued for compliance:

(1) Watch keepers on such Coastal vessels are exempted from having a Watch keeping certificate (as spelt out in Rule 28, Chapter III of the Engine department in META Manual I), till 31st January 2002 and such certification should not be insisted upon during Port State Inspection and Surveys for Statutory Certification.

(2) For those who aspire for watch keeping Certificate, the requisite sea time served on these coastal vessels should be counted at full rate towards the issue of a rating's Watch keeping Certificate and towards any certification process for NCV examination in accordance with rules contained in Section M-III/9, Miscellaneous provision, Clause 7 of META Manual I. This sea time should be counted towards certification process, irrespective of whether they have done their time after obtaining CDC (after April 1999), or any period 3 years prior to April 1999 (before obtaining CDC), provided the sea time is issued duly authenticated (Chief Engineer/ Engineer Supdt.). If required, such sea time should be verified.

(3) Those seamen holding CDCs as Fitter, Electrician, Mechanician, on board these coastal vessels and working as oilers, greasers, fitter, electrician, mechanic should not be denied / restricted from duties as assistant to Watch keepers, provided duly qualified watch keepers are on board as per manning in force, which includes dispensations. Such of these seafarers have a route to appear for NCV examinations, as most of them have ITI / Diploma qualifications.

(4) In accordance with Rule 28, Chapter III of the Engine department as spelt out in META Manual I, an approved Sea Going Service requires the watch keeper to have a TAR Book. The provision for serving with TAR Book is waived till 31st January 2002 and thus the watch keepers are exempted from possessing an approved TAR Book.

The contents of this circular must be conveyed to all concerned Examiners and Shipping Masters who deal with such candidates when they appear for certification. It must also be conveyed to all those surveyors who do statutory inspection. The essence of this circular must be explained on enquiry to ship-owners / Ship Managers who ply such vessels on the Indian coast. The implication of this circular is restricted only to vessels such as Mini Bulk Carriers, OSVs, Tugs, Self Propelled Barges etc. plying exclusively on the Indian coast.