

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING**

**Examination, Assessment & Certification Branch (EAC Branch)**

**Authorized by**

Subject- Revision of tonnage limits for Home Trade Certificate of Competencies in line with M.S. (STCW) Rules, 2014 – reg.

**Issue No. 1**

**Director General of Shipping**

**Nautical wing / SAFEMAN Circular No. 2 of 2014**

**File No. 7-NT(7)/2013**

**Date: 17.12.2014**

1. The Government of India has notified the Merchant Shipping (Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for seafarers) Rules, 2014 on 31st July 2014. These rules have introduced following new grades of Certificate of Competencies (COCs) at the management level in order to facilitate coastal shipping:

- a) Chief Mate of a ship of between 500 and 6,000 gross tonnage operating in Near-Coastal voyages
- b) Master of a ship of between 500 and 6,000 gross tonnage operating in Near-Coastal voyages

2. Presently, the Directorate issues 'Mate of a Home Trade ship' and 'Master of a Home Trade ship' COCs under the Sec.78 of the M.S. Act, in alignment with Near Coastal Voyages (NCV) provisions prescribed vide M.S. STCW Rules 1998, which has a tonnage limitation of 'Up to 3000 GT only.'

3. Bearing in mind that the competency levels of existing management level (home trade) certificate holders in the NCV stream are meeting the requirements of new grades of COCs, introduced in M.S. (STCW) Rules, 2014 referred in Para 1 above;

4. Therefore, vide Rule 79(2) of the M.S. (STCW) Rules, 2014, the Director General of Shipping is pleased to grant permission for the existing seafarers, holding management level NCV certificates issued under the provisions of M.S. (STCW) Rules, 1998, to work on board ships of up to 6000 GT, in their respective capacities within NCV areas. Companies need not seek any dispensation or modification in safe manning document to implement this circular.

5. The tonnage limitation of management level NCV COC holders will be amended as 'Up to 6000 GT only' by means of an endorsement by MMDs during the time of their revalidation beginning 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

This circular is issued with the approval of the Director General of Shipping.