



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

DGS Order No. 10 of 2026

File No.: 20-19/3/2026-TRG - DGS	Date: 19.05.2026
Subject: SOP to grant permission to MTIs for conducting foreign administration approved courses	
References:	a) DGS Order No. 8 of 2025 issued on 01/08/2025 b) DGS Order No. 4 of 2026 issued on 16/04/2026
I. Background <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 Section 47 entrusts the Director-General with the power to administer, supervise and monitor all activities relating to maritime education, training and assessment and approve the training institutes, training courses including method of conduct of such training course for the grant of certificate of competency or certificate of proficiency.2. The DGS Order No. 08 of 2025 issued on August 1, 2025, was a significant directive aimed at curbing unauthorized maritime training by foreign entities within India. It specifically prohibited foreign administrations or their representatives from conducting, promoting, or delivering STCW training in India without prior permission from the Director General of Shipping.3. The substandard training and fraudulent certifications from unapproved entities on behalf of foreign administration violate STCW Convention, pose a challenge to maritime safety with the potential to cause damage to life, property and environment and are therefore a matter of concern to the Directorate General of Shipping. Furthermore, the certification methods adopted by some of these issuing authorities often lack scrutiny for proper training and assessment which can potentially harm the reputation of Indian seafarers.	

4. Inadequate training has been linked to a rise in maritime casualties, including collisions and "man overboard" incidents. Several cases of abandonment have been reported involving seafarers' holdings such training certificates issued on behalf of foreign entities. Port State Control (PSC) inspections have also increasingly flagged seafarers with forged or inconsistent documentation.
5. The Directorate General of Shipping, hereby notifies a framework for assessing the maritime training institutes for their capability to deliver maritime training programmes to seafarer's similar to the requirement of the DG Shipping as required for certification under other foreign issuing authorities, which may lead to a certificate of competency or proficiency or a certificate mandated by the STCW Convention.
6. **Conditions for grant of "No Objection":** The DGS approved MTIs intending to conduct courses on behalf of foreign maritime administration shall submit the application to DGS as per the Standard Operating Procedure annexed to this order. Upon satisfaction, the DGS shall issue a specific permission or "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) for the MTI to conduct the foreign course. MTIs must not promote these courses as "DGS Approved" unless the specific foreign-flag version has also received DGS's written approval. Any training provider operating without such an NOC from the DGS must stop conducting unauthorized training on behalf of foreign administrations immediately, or else action shall be initiated as per applicable law.
7. **Batch Reporting:** All candidates (including foreign nationals) must be registered in the DGS MTI portal, or as per the specific terms of the DGS letter. No online training programme shall be permitted to be conducted unless specifically allowed by the DGS. Every Maritime Training Institute irrespective of the course type (Indian or Foreign administration approved) have to comply with the Centralized Attendance System requirements for the faculty and the students.
8. The MTI has to upload the time-table, batch details and file the 6 monthly & yearly returns as mandated for any DGS approved institutes. The MTI has to adhere to the quality system, infrastructure requirements, faculty qualification & teaching hours permitted as per the DGS guidelines. All records have to maintained for at least three years and made available for verification by the competent authority.
9. Multiple batches of foreign administration approved courses shall not permitted at any given point of time. The scheduling of the courses has to ensure that such overlap is avoided.

10. Any non-compliance with the above shall be viewed seriously and all approvals granted shall cause to be suspended/downgraded by the DGS till such time as deemed fit by the DGS.
11. The approved Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs) should deposit a 1% annual fee, which is the total fees collected based on the admitted strength of foreign administration approved courses and is remitted to the Consolidated Fund of India following the established framework for the Indian administration approved courses for each Financial year, latest by May 31 each year, failing which the MTI shall be required to pay a penalty at the rate of 18% per annum to be paid by July 31st. Any defaulting MTI shall cause disciplinary action to be initiated by the DGS.
12. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is attached herewith for the information of the training institutes and the foreign administration for compliance.



(Shyam Jagannathan)
Director-General of Shipping

To

1. The Principal Officers, Mercantile Marine Department, Mumbai/Kolkata/Chennai/Kandla/Kochi.
2. The Surveyor-in-Charge, Mercantile Marine Department, Goa/Jamnagar/Port Blair/Visakhapatnam/Tuticorin/Noida/Haldia/Paradip/Mangalore
3. Indian National Shipowner's Association (INSA), Mumbai.
4. Foreign Owner and Ship-Managers Association (FOSMA)
5. The Maritime Association of Ship Owners, Ship Managers and Agents (MASSA)
6. Indian Coastal Conference Shipping Association (ICCSA), Mumbai
7. Institute of Marine Engineers (India)
8. Engineering Wing
9. Hindi cell
10. Computer cell

Copy to:

11. The Chief Surveyor with the Govt.of India
12. Nautical Advisor to the Govt.of India
13. Surveyors of Engineering wing of the DGS

Standard Operating Procedures for Training institutes desirous of conducting pre-sea/competency/modular/value added courses for Indian seafarer certification by other administration.

1. Objective

To establish a clear framework for Training institutes to conduct maritime training programmes for Indian seafarers leading to the issuance of Certificates of Competency (CoC) or Proficiency (CoP) by foreign maritime administrations. Recognising that various training providers operating in India, claiming to represent foreign administrations, were issuing STCW certifications without proper recognition by the Indian government, these measures have been mandated for ensuring that an Indian seafarer obtains adequate knowledge, competence and certification prior any employment at sea.

2. Pre-Requisites

.1 No maritime training institute shall operate or conduct any training course in India unless it has been granted a '**No-objection** certificate' (NoC) by the Director-General for the courses intended to be conducted for any foreign maritime administration. As a minimum, the MTI should be an institute approved by the DGS to conduct either the same course as per the STCW Convention or the institute should demonstrate their capability to conduct the course aligned with the guidelines issued by the DGS for approval of such courses. There shall be no relaxation in the minimum requirement mandated by the DG Shipping for conduct of the courses w.r.t. infrastructure, faculty, facilities, centralized attendance system etc.

.2 The MTI must possess a **Letter of Authorization/Approval** from the Foreign Maritime Administration for the specific course which shall be verified by the DGS with the said administration.

.3 The DGS shall further verify compliance and capability of the MTI in sharing its available resources while maintaining the schedule and delivery of the courses to the Indian seafarers without violating the conditions of the approval accorded for the said course.

.4 No dilution of training standards shall be permitted, and the training programme shall not commence until the **Specific Written Permission** from the DG Shipping (India) is obtained as per this SOP.

.5 For training and certification requirements mandated by foreign administration over and above the existing STCW regulations or which are not currently undertaken by India, the MTI should comply with the standards specified in the DGS Order No. 5 of 2016, DGS Order No. 7 of 2016 as applicable to the course especially those specifically mentioned for the faculty, infrastructure, facilities/amenities, centralized attendance system, record-keeping & retrieval etc. These details are to be indicated in the application form which is appended to this SOP. The DGS reserves the right to verify that every maritime training programme conducted in India, for its level of compliance with established guidelines of the DGS and any violation thereof may cause the immediate suspension of the permission to conduct the training programme. The MTIs can be subjected to surprise inspection and even the courses conducted for foreign administration are not excluded from the scope of such inspections as and when conducted by the competent authority.

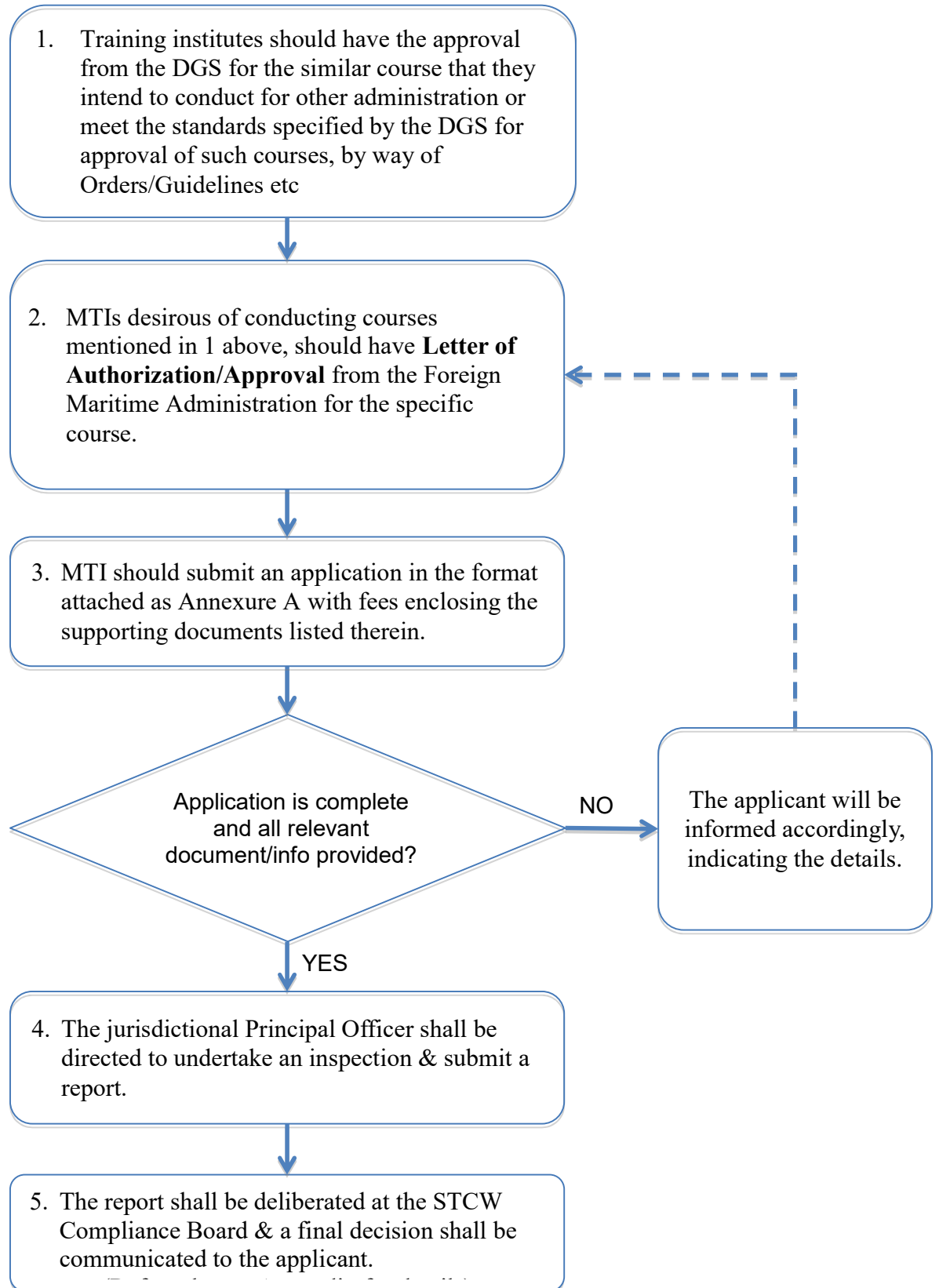
.6 The MTIs has an obligation to forthrightly inform the DGS, if the approval accorded by the foreign administration for the conduct of any course is withdrawn or suspended. Any failure to do so, shall cause action to be taken by the DGS, which can include suspension of the MTI.

.7 The MTI has to maintain and comply with the minimum requirement for the infrastructure, faculty, library, publications, CAS etc. as mandated by the DGS for any courses and no relaxation shall be granted for the courses being conducted for foreign administration. The record of training conducted and the ratio of faculty/instructor to the trainees, if mandated by the DGS has to be complied with.

.8 MTIs must ensure that training, internal assessments, and examination processes meet strict national and IMO standards to ensure the competency of Indian seafarers.

.9 The DGS retains the power to change, modify, or cancel the NoC as needed for maritime safety and compliance, if there is evidence that the quality and integrity of training and examinations are not meeting the required standards.

3. Step-by-Step Procedure for any DGS approved MTI



DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING
(TRAINING BRANCH)

CHECKLIST & APPLICATION FORM TO BE SUBMITTED FOR NOC BY DGS FOR CONDUCT OF FOREIGN ADMINISTRATION APPROVED COURSES IN INDIA

MTI No.:	NAME of MTI:
Address of MTI as per existing approval of the DGS	
MTI is applying for approval to conduct courses for other administration at the same premise Tick (✓)	YES / NO
Address if different from the earlier DGS approved premise	

Sr. No.	Name of the course & duration (No. of days) [A]	STCW Ref.No [B]	Equivalent DGS approved course ID, if exist, with details [C]	Course guideline issued by the foreign administration for the specific course [D]	Foreign admin Approval Letter for the MTI (Yes/No) [E]	Course syllabus comparison (Gap Analysis) [F]	Batch intake [G]	Frequency/year [H]	Faculty matrix [I]	Fee [J]
1										

Declaration: I hereby declare that all the statements made in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed/distorted. The MTI accepts, agrees and undertakes to be bound, as far as the conduct of the training programmes and for any matter related thereto, by the applicable rules and regulations of the D.G. Shipping. All supporting documents listed in the above forms are submitted herewith.

Date

Name of the Authorised signatory

Signature

9वीं मंज़िल, बीटा बिल्डिंग, आई थिंक टेक्नो कैम्पस, कांजुर गाँव रोड, कांजुरमार्ग (पूर्व) मुंबई- 400042

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