



DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, MUMBAI

This is a draft circular placed on the DGMA website for stakeholder comments, until August 10, 2026. Any comments/inputs/suggestions may be sent to the Engineering wing of the DGMA by email to praveen.nair@gov.in. Please indicate the subject of the draft circular while submitting the inputs.

Draft DGMA EAC Branch Circular No.xx of 2026

Subject: Near Coastal Voyages (NCV) Engine Cadet scheme for General Purpose (GP) Rating to Marine Engineer Officer Class IV -NCV certification.

References:

- a) MS Notice No.14 of 2007
- b) MS Notice No.14 of 2008
- c) MS Notice No.16 of 2008
- d) DGS Order No. 9 of 2024

I. Background

1. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) amended the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention) and the STCW Code in 2010 through the Manila amendments, which introduced newer regulations, bringing-in more clarity into the requirements governing 'Near Coastal Voyage'(NCV) Certificates of Competency.
2. Whereas, the Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) through the above referred Order and Merchant Shipping Notices had introduced various schemes for the strengthening the NCV stream and has been reviewing the scheme periodically for a larger participation of Indian seafarers by widening the intake criteria.
3. The DGMA has received various representations from stakeholders, seeking a review of the existing training and certification framework; and the introduction of a structured career progression pathway for GP Rating candidates to be eligible to appear for the Marine Engineer Officer Class-IV (NCV) CoC examination.

II. Purpose

1. This Circular introduces the Engine Cadet Scheme for General Purpose (GP) Rating candidates leading to the issuance of Certificate of Competency (CoC) as Marine Engineer Officer Class-IV (NCV) [MEO Class-IV (NCV)].
2. The Circular is intended to provide a structured pathway for General Purpose (GP) Rating candidates in order to qualify for Marine Engineer Officer Class-IV (NCV) CoC examination, in accordance with the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers) Rules, 2014, as amended, and

the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended.

3. The objective is to promote the coastal shipping sector and provide adequate number of qualified and certified resources, while ensuring full compliance with the provisions of Rule 41 of the Merchant Shipping (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers) Rules, 2014, as amended.
4. The Directorate General of Maritime Administration, in exercise of the powers conferred under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 constituted a Technical Committee comprising representatives from the DGMA, domain experts from various industry organizations and professional bodies. After several deliberations on the level of knowledge, understanding and proficiency required under the different sections of the STCW Code, the Committee examined the existing training and certification framework and has submitted the following recommendations for a structured Engine Cadet Scheme for the benefit of General Purpose (GP) Rating candidates, enabling a career progression towards issuance of CoC as Marine Engineer Officer Class-IV (NCV), by partially amending certain criteria stated in the DGS Order No. 9 of 2024. The amended Flow diagram (FD) 1 is attached as Annexure I to this Circular.

III. Eligibility Requirements

1. The NCV Engine cadet scheme mandates the candidate to have the minimum educational qualification, as under:
 - .1 Higher Secondary Certificate (12th Std) with PCM as core subjects and 50 % in English at Class10 / 12 or Pass 2-Year I.T.I. course from Govt. recognized Institute with minimum 50% aggregate marks in final year and minimum 40% marks in English at 10th Std.
 - .2 Diploma in Mechanical/ Electrical Engineering or Diploma in streams covered in TEAP A, Section III/1, Rule 35
2. The candidate meeting the educational qualification in para (1) above, has to complete GP Rating course from a DGMA approved MTI and successfully pass in the Exit examination for being considered for the NCV Engine cadet scheme.
3. The eligible candidates are required to successfully complete all mandatory STCW basic safety training courses and meet the medical fitness standards prescribed under the Merchant Shipping (Medical Examination) Rules, 2000, as amended.

IV. Approved Seagoing Service

1. The candidate shall complete a minimum of **Twelve** months of approved seagoing service as an Engine Cadet in the engine department onboard Near Coastal Voyage (NCV) ships or ships operating under the Indian Coastal Vessel Notification or ships

operating under the River Sea Vessel Notification issued by the DGMA, in accordance to an approved Structured Shipboard Training Programme (STP). This qualifying sea service period shall be reduced to **six** months for candidates who meet the eligibility requirements specified in Para III-1.2 of this Circular.

2. The approved seagoing service shall include not less than six months of engine-room watchkeeping duties performed under the supervision of the Chief Engineer or a qualified Engineer Officer. The candidate shall serve as First Assistant to a Senior Engineer Officer in Full Charge, duly certified by the Chief Engineer through a Testimonial. The entire training, tasks, assessments, and watchkeeping duties shall be recorded in an approved Training and Assessment Record (TAR) Book in accordance with the approved Structured Shipboard Training Programme (STP).
3. Candidates shall successfully complete all mandatory preparatory and modular courses before making an application for assessment to appear for the written and oral examinations (Part-A and Part-B) leading to the award of the Marine Engineer Officer Class-IV (NCV) Certificate of Competency. These shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - (a) Preparatory Course for Marine Engineer Officer Class-IV (NCV) – Four months;
 - (b) Advanced Fire Fighting (AFF);
 - (c) Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (PSCRB);
 - (d) Medical First Aid (MFA); and
 - (e) Any other course or training programme as may be prescribed by the DGMA, from time to time.

V. Miscellaneous Provisions

The approved Training and Assessment Record (TAR) Book shall be duly completed, endorsed and authenticated by the Chief Engineer of the vessel to track progress, document completed skills, and prove that the candidate meets the standards prescribed

Upon successful completion of the approved seagoing service, the candidate shall obtain a Testimonial from the Chief Engineer certifying the nature of duties performed and the candidate's standard of competence. The Testimonial shall be endorsed by the Master and confirmed by the Company or the Recruitment and Placement Service (RPS), as applicable. A candidate who does not appear for the written examination, the oral examination, or both, within two years from the date of successful completion of the Preparatory Course shall be required to undergo the Preparatory Course afresh before becoming eligible to apply for the Marine Engineer Officer Class-IV (NCV) Certificate of Competency examinations.

VI. Implementation

This Circular shall come into force with immediate effect.

This Circular is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

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(Praveen Nair)

Dy.Chief Surveyor cum Sr.DDG(Technical),

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. Indian Coastal Conference Shipping Association (ICCSA), Mumbai
5. Institute of Marine Engineers (India)
6. The Chief Surveyor with the Govt.of India
7. Engineering Wing
8. Training Branch
9. Hindi cell
10. Computer cell

Flow Diagram (FD)-1

Flow diagram No.III/11-1 showing the different categories of intake to the NCV certification scheme.

