



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

75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

File No: 20-11011/30/2021-TRG - DGS

Date: 09.05.2022

**ORDER OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL AND
DE-RECOGNITION OF INSTITUTE**

The Directorate had accorded approval to the MTI "M/s. Ramana Academy of Maritime Studies" (MTI No. 204022) located at Plot No. 5, Gut No. 85/0, 86/0 +96/1 Aakurli New Panvel, Navi Mumbai for conduct of Post-sea courses from 2007. The MTI belongs to the Trust Ramana Academy of Maritime Studies. The Trustees of the said Trust are 1. Mr. S. Venkatesan and 2. Ms. Sudha Venkatesan.

2. M/s. Ramana Academy of Maritime Studies (MTI No. 204022) was allowed to conduct following course

Sr.No.	Course Name	Student per batch	Batches per year
01	Basic Safety Training	20	48
02	Basic Training for Oil and Chemical Tanker Cargo Operations	20	48
03	Refresher Training for Proficiency in FPFF	20	72
04	Refresher Training for Proficiency in PST	20	72
05	Security Training for Seafarer with Designated Security Duties	24	96

3. Whereas, the Trustee/MTI vide email dated 27.06.2021 informed the Directorate about the change in ownership of trust and the demise of their founder trustee Late Shri. Mr. S. Venkatesan. In the same email the MTI has attached a copy of leave and license agreement of the premises. The MTI further informed the Directorate on 27.06.2021 that they are commencing online courses from 1st July 2021.

4. Whereas, the Trustee/MTI vide email dated 14.07.2021 informed the Directorate that Mr. Sablu Kumar has been appointed general manager and authorize to represent matters related to the conduct and affairs of the MTI.

5. Whereas, several complaints were received at the Directorate against the subject Maritime Training Institute (MTI) that the institute is not operating from the said address and the plot is lying vacant without any building, most of which fall within the meaning of "Major Deficiency".

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

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6. Whereas, the Directorate requested MMD, Mumbai to carry out a surprise inspection of the MTI vide letter no. 20-11011/30/2021-TRG - DGS dated 11.08.2021.

7. Whereas, the MMD, Mumbai conducted a surprise Inspection of the M/s. Ramana Academy of Maritime Studies (MTI No. 204022) on 25.09.2021 at Plot No 5, Gut No 85, 86 & 96/1 Akruti New Panvel, Navi Mumbai -410206 which is an approved premises of the Institute. The report dated 27.09.2021 was submitted to the Directorate by MMD, Mumbai.

8. Whereas, the Directorate issued Show Cause Notice dated 22.10.2021 to MTI seeking clarification for the deficiencies noted by the MMD, Mumbai during the inspection.

9. Whereas, the Directorate has received reply from MTI on 01.11.2021. The reply has been examined by the Directorate with corresponding deficiencies. The details of deficiencies, reply by MTI & the Directorate comments are as follows:

Deficiency No. 1

The MMD surveyor found that the approved premises was an empty plot of land having no infrastructure like building or any other commercial space to house the maritime training institute. Further at the time of inspection at the abovementioned address there was no official / staff / representative of the maritime training institute. The surveyor inquired with some locals and found that the building was demolished more than two months back.

MTI Reply

The premises being the building of the MTI existed at the time of executing leave and license agreement. The MTI was imparting the training in the virtual infrastructure in accordance with the Hon'ble DGS guidelines. The MTI received notice from the owner to vacate the premises in the first week of September, 2021 as he intended to demolish the building. The MTI swiftly acted to search the new premises and approached various premises owners to lease the property.

Comments of the Directorate

Whereas, the MTI has admitted that the Building was demolished in the first week of Sept. 2021. Knowingly that as per DGS Guidelines without having required infrastructure they cannot conduct any courses even Virtual classes. The MTI has conducted 37 Batches on four different courses i.e. Basic Safety Training, Refresher Training for Proficiency in FPFF, Refresher Training for Proficiency in PST and Security Training for Seafarer with Designated Security Duties and has generated digital certificates of 688 candidates in the period from 01.09.2021 to 22.10.2021.

Further the MTI has never informed the Directorate about the demolition of the approved premises. The Building was demolished few months back as per the surveyors who conducted inspection on 25.09.2021 and found empty plot with no building/infrastructure on the MTI approved address. As MTI was functioning without any premises and the same is admitted by MTI. This is a Major Non Compliance by

MTI and falls under the Major Deficiencies as per Para 5.3.1 of Part 5 (Major Deficiencies) of DGS Order 5 of 2016. Therefore, the reply of MTI is not acceptable.

Deficiency No.2

M/s. Ramana Academy of Maritime Studies (MTI No. 204022) conducted the online courses knowingly that they are not in compliance with the DGS Orders and Guidelines and are not in the possession of the approved premises. This Non Compliance of MTI falls under the Major Deficiencies as per Para 5.3.1 of Part 5 (Major Deficiencies) of DGS Order 5 of 2016.

MTI Reply

Considering the Covid-19 Pandemic and its devastating impact on the health, the MTI pragmatically decided to operate from a work from home set up. MTI had ensured that it had adequate infrastructure for the conduct of the online course in accordance with the DGS circular No. 19 of 2020.

Comments of the Directorate

As per DGS Circular No. 19 of 2020 dated 18.05.2020 vide para 14:

14.1 The Maritime Training Institute should submit a DECLARATION as in Annexure II to this circular prior to starting virtual classes/live video sessions.

14.2 Any deviation from the stated requirements in this guideline, or any recommendations that are issued by the Directorate from time-to-time, shall be treated as major non-conformity and shall warrant strict disciplinary action. In case of doubt, the MTI is advised to seek clarification from the Directorate prior implementing.

14.3 Strict disciplinary action like immediate withdrawal of all granted approvals will be taken against the MTI if the MTI has falsified any records or misrepresented any facts.

14.4 Strict disciplinary action like blacklisting for a period up to five years maybe initiated against Trustees, Principal and faculty for falsifying any records and issuing certificates without conducting the course.

Whereas, the MTI has not submitted any declaration in Annexure-II to the Directorate.

As per 14.2 of the said order any deviation from the stated requirements in this guideline, or any recommendations that are issued by the Directorate from time-to-time, shall be treated as major non-conformity and shall warrant strict disciplinary action.

Deficiency No. 3

The Submitted copy of registered lease deed of the premises Plot No 5, Gut No.85, 86 & 96/1 Akruti New Panvel, Navi Mumbai -410206 vide letter dated 26.06.2021 was examined by the Directorate and it was prima facie found that the submitted registry has been forged by the MTI as the date of execution of said registry is 15.06.2021 and on today's date there is no building at all on the site.

MTI Reply

The building of the MTI existed at the time of executing leave and license agreement. The MTI received notice to vacate the premises in the first week of September, 2021 as the owner intended to demolish the building.

Comments of the Directorate.

Whereas, the MTI was suppose to inform the Directorate about shifting of the premises and only after successful inspection, the MTI was allowed to conduct the approved courses. However, the MTI did not inform about vacating approved premises and continued to conduct courses without having possession of the approved premises. This Non Compliance of MTI falls under the Major Deficiencies as per Para 5.3.1 of Part 5 (Major Deficiencies) of DGS Order 5 of 2016.

Deficiency No. 4

Whereas, the Directorate found from the e-Governance data that the Institute has Shri Pradyumna Pandurang Gadagkar {FIN No. T10886} as Principal of the Institute. The Principal of approved MTI has an overall responsibility to make assure that the institute is functioning as per the DGS Orders and Guidelines. The Principal moral responsibility was to inform the Directorate about the actual position of the infrastructure and of the premises. Further, the Principal and two course-in-charge Shri Ashwini Kumar Barnwal T50297 and Manoj Kumar Chowrasia T20119 have signed on the digital course certificates issued to the candidates. The Principal and two course-in-charges are equally responsible as they are well aware of the fact that the Institute has no infrastructure in place which is a major non-compliance to the DGS Guidelines but still they have conducted the courses and issued the digital course certificate.

MTI Reply

Shri Pradyumna Pandurang Gadagkar has been taking regular updates on the MTI's Road map to shift to the new premises. He has also given his inputs in this regard, which was well taken by the MTI.

Comments of the Directorate.

Whereas, the Principal admitted that he was aware of the fact that MTI was not in possession of the DGS approved premises. As per issued DGS Order/Guidelines and course approved letters, the MTI has to have required infrastructure. Non existence of

approved infrastructure is considered to be major Non-compliance. The Principal of the MTI has the responsibility to function/run the MTI as per issued Guidelines. In this case it was found that Principal was not complying with the Guidelines and knowingly flouted the Rules.

Deficiency No. 5

Whereas, the Directorate found from the e-Governance data that the Institute has conducted number of courses (three tier learning) and has issued course digital certificates to the candidates without having possession of the premises and required infrastructure as per the DGS Orders/Guidelines.

MTI Reply

The MTI did not admit any new fresh students in the month of October 2021. Prior to and at the time when the show cause notice was received, the MTI did not conduct any course even under virtual class.

Comments of the Directorate.

Whereas, the MTI is making false statement before the Directorate General of Shipping. The Directorate e-Governance data shows that MTI has uploaded/conducted 37 Batches of the 4 different courses i.e. Basic Safety Training, Refresher Training for Proficiency in FPFF, Refresher Training for Proficiency in PST and Security Training for Seafarer with Designated Security Duties and has generated digital course certificates of 688 candidates in the month of from 01.09.2021 to 22.10.2021. The data received from e-Governance established the fact that MTI has not complied with the DGS Guidelines rather tried to misuse the system. Hence this falls under the major deficiency as per Para 5.3.1 of Part 5 (Major Deficiencies) of DGS Order 5 of 2016.

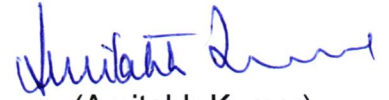
10. Whereas, the DG(S) has offered a personal hearing to the representatives from the MTI. All the representatives from Ramana Academy of Maritime Studies accepted before the DG(S) that they were conducting online courses even when they were not in possession of approved premises. Their representatives informed that the actual owner has sold the Building / premises in the month of April 2021. They further informed that the said Building (approved premises of MTI) was demolished in the month of September 2021 but have not informed to the Directorate. Mr. Ajay K Bhagat tried to put some false statement like Institute has stopped conducting courses when building got demolished. Whereas, as per the e-Gov. data the Institute continued conducting online courses till the month of October 2021. Subsequently the Directorate received request from Ramana Academy of Maritime Studies for withdrawal of approval.

11. Therefore, the undersigned, in exercise of the powers of supervision of maritime training as provided in Rule 75 of the Merchant Shipping (Standards of Training certification and Watch Keeping for Seafarers) Rule, 2014 notified under Section 78, 87, 88, 98, 456, 457 and 458 of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as amended, and in terms of para 5.5 of DGS Order No. 5 of 2016 for the proceeding reasons spelt out, hereby de-recognizes the institute and withdraws all the approvals as mentioned

above accorded to the MTI "M/s.Ramana Academy of Maritime Studies (MTI No. 204022) located at Plot No. 5, Gut No. 85/0, 86/0 + 96/1Aakurli New Panvel, Navi Mumbai.

12. The Trustees of the "Ramana Academy of Maritime Studies" Ms. Sudha Venkatesan along with Mr. Sablu Kumar, General Manager are also debarred from DGS related activities for the period of 5 years.

13. The MTI is directed to preserve all records pertaining to the attendance of faculty, candidates and biometric attendance, registers, video recordings and all such requirement as per relevant DG Order, Circulars and Guidelines and present it to the DG authority as and when called for further investigation and verification.



(Amitabh Kumar)

Director General of Shipping and
Additional Secretary to the Government of India

To.

1.M/s. Ramana Academy of Maritime Studies (MTI No. 204022),Plot No. 5, Gut No. Plot No. 5, Gut No. 85/0, 86/0 + 96/1AakurliNew Panvel, Navi Mumbai

2.Ms. Sudha Venkatesan, Flat No:1103, Floor No:11TH, Emrald Pratik Gems, Plot no. 10/11 sector no 35,Kamothe, Navi Mumbai, Raigarh, Maharashtra, 410206.

3.Mr. Sablu Kumar, General Manager, Flat No:420, Road no 1 , Exg. Galli Mithapur, Jai Prakash Nagar, Jakkanpur, Patna, Bihar, 300001.