



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
समुद्रीय प्रशासन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, MUMBAI

File No. 25-24/3/2025-NT – DGS (Comp. No.: 33479)

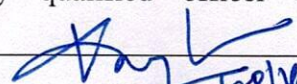
Date: 31.08.2026

Authorized by: Chief Examiner of Master & Mates and Chief Examiner of Engineers

DGMA (NT/ENG) Circular No. 53 of 2026

Subject: Alternative/Dual Certification for Seafarers (Ratings and Able Seafarer) – reg.

1. The Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) is committed to facilitating appropriate certification pathways in accordance with the requirements of the STCW Convention and the Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014, as amended.
2. The existing six-month pre-sea training for deck and engine-room ratings is conducted as an integrated programme, namely '**Training for General Purpose Ratings**', covering both navigational and engine-room functions.
3. Under Rule 33(2)(b)(ii) of the Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014, Certificate of Proficiency as a Rating forming part of a Navigational Watch requires approved pre-sea training and approved seagoing service of not less than six months.
4. Similarly, under Rule 46(2)(b)(ii) of the Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014, Certificate of Proficiency as a Rating forming part of an Engine-Room Watch requires approved pre-sea or special training and approved seagoing service of not less than six months.
5. In accordance with Rule 68 of the Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014, a candidate seeking alternative/dual certification as a Rating forming part of a Navigational Watch (II/4) and a Rating forming part of an Engine-Room Watch (III/4) shall complete either of the following:
 - (a) Approved seagoing service of not less than 24 months, comprising:
 - (i) not less than 12 months associated with navigational watchkeeping duties; and
 - (ii) not less than 12 months associated with engine-room duties;
 - OR**
 - (b) Approved special training, either pre-sea or on-board ship, together with approved seagoing service of not less than 8 months, comprising:
 - (i) not less than 4 months associated with navigational watchkeeping duties; and
 - (ii) not less than 4 months associated with engine-room duties.
6. The seagoing service, training and experience required under Rule 68 shall be carried out under the direct supervision of an appropriately qualified officer or rating.


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7. Considering that the six-month pre-sea training for deck and engine-room ratings is conducted as an integrated **'Training for General Purpose Ratings'** programme covering both navigational and engine-room functions, the DGMA provides for continuation of this integrated approach on board.
8. This shall apply for any trainee, after completing the six months pre-sea GP Rating training, opts for certification under Rule 68 of the Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014, as amended, based on his service on-board as trainee deck rating and/or trainee engine-room rating.
9. A seafarer who, after acquiring dual certification as a Rating forming part of a Navigational Watch (II/4) and a Rating forming part of an Engine-Room Watch (III/4), seeks a CoP as Able Seafarer-Deck (II/5) and Able Seafarer-Engine (III/5) shall, while qualified to serve as a rating forming part of a navigational and engine-room watch, meet the applicable competency standards and complete one of the following:
- (a) Approved seagoing service of not less than 30 months, comprising:
- (i) not less than 18 months associated with able seafarer-deck duties; and
 - (ii) not less than 12 months associated with able seafarer-engine duties;
- OR**
- (b) An approved six months GP training programme together with not less than 18 months of approved seagoing service, comprising:
- (i) not less than 12 months associated with able seafarer-deck duties; and
 - (ii) not less than 6 months associated with able seafarer-engine duties;
- OR**
- (c) An approved special integrated deck and engine training programme, including not less than 12 months of approved seagoing service in an integrated deck and engine department, comprising:
- (i) not less than 6 months associated with able seafarer-deck duties; and
 - (ii) not less than 6 months associated with able seafarer-engine duties.
10. On completion of the prescribed pre-sea training and seagoing service, candidates may apply to the concerned Mercantile Marine Department for alternative/dual/polyvalent certification. The application shall be made manually until the Examination and Certification System of the Directorate provides an online facility for the dual certification.
11. In accordance with Rule 69 of the Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014, alternative or dual certification under Rule 68 shall not be used to:
- (a) reduce the number of crew required to be carried on board;
 - (b) lower professional standards or de-skill seafarers; or
 - (c) justify the assignment of the combined duties of a navigational watchkeeping rating and an engine-room watchkeeping rating to a single CoP holder during the same watch.
12. For effective implementation of the alternative certification programme in accordance with Chapter VII of the STCW Convention and Code and Rule 68 of the Merchant

Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014, the following shall apply:

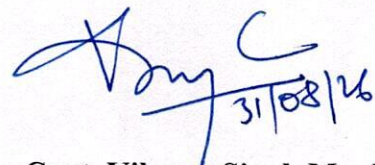
- (a) Trainees shall be issued a combined **Training and Assessment Record (TAR) Book** covering both Rating forming part of a Navigational Watch and Rating forming part of an Engine-Room Watch upon completion of the pre-sea training programme.

After obtaining the dual CoPs as Rating forming part of a Navigational Watch (II/4) and Rating forming part of an Engine-Room Watch (III/4), the seafarer shall record the prescribed training and assessment requirements in the TAR Book during the eligible period of seagoing service specified in this Circular.

- (b) Existing seafarers holding a CoP as either Rating forming part of a Navigational Watch (II/4) or Rating forming part of an Engine-Room Watch (III/4) shall complete the prescribed seagoing service in both functions, supported by the appropriate TAR Book, for consideration of dual certification under Rule 68 of the Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014.

13. Where such seafarers subsequently seek certification under Chapter VII of the STCW Convention and Rule 68 of MS STCW Rules 2014, the prescribed seagoing service for certification as Able Seafarer-Deck (II/5) and Able Seafarer-Engine (III/5), together with the appropriate TAR Book, shall be mandatory. The same shall be verified by the competent authority prior to issuance of the respective CoPs.

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.



Capt. Vikram Singh Manhas
Deputy Nautical Advisor-cum-Senior DDG (Tech.)

FLOW CHART

ALTERNATIVE / DUAL CERTIFICATION FOR SEAFARERS (RATING FORMING PART OF WATCH)

Rule 68 of the Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014, as amended

1. PRE-SEA TRAINING

6 months Training for General Purpose Ratings, covering navigational and engine-room functions.



2. RULE 68 – DUAL CERTIFICATION

Candidate proceeds under either of the following prescribed pathways:

OPTION (A)

- 24 months approved seagoing service
- ≥ 12 months navigational watchkeeping duties
- ≥ 12 months engine-room duties

OPTION (B)

- Approved GP Rating training + 8 months approved seagoing service
- ≥ 4 months navigational watchkeeping duties
- ≥ 4 months engine-room duties



3. TRAINING / SEA SERVICE

Training, seagoing service and experience to be carried out under the direct supervision of an appropriately qualified officer or rating.



4. TRAINING & ASSESSMENT RECORD (TAR) BOOK

Combined TAR Book covering both Navigational Watch (II/4) and Engine-Room Watch (III/4).



5. APPLICATION TO MERCANTILE MARINE DEPARTMENT (MMD) Online

Apply for alternative / dual / polyvalent certification.



6. VERIFICATION BY COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Verification of prescribed training, assessment, seagoing service and supporting records.



7. DUAL CoP ISSUED – RATING LEVEL

- Rating forming part of a Navigational Watch (II/4) or Able
- Rating forming part of an Engine-Room Watch (III/4)
Under Regulation VII/2 of the STCW Convention.



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CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY

AS
 RATING FORMING PART OF A NAVIGATIONAL WATCH (II/4)
 &
 RATING FORMING PART OF AN ENGINE-ROOM WATCH (III/4)
 (Regulation VII/2 of STCW Convention)

Certificate Issued Under The Provisions Of The Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 (24 of 2025) And The International Convention On Standards Of Training, Certification And Watchkeeping For Seafarers (STCW), 1978, As Amended.

(Issued under the authority of Government of India)

This is to certify that Mr./Ms. _____ has been found duly qualified in accordance with the provisions of Regulation VII/2 of the STCW Convention, as amended, and has been found competent to perform the following functions at the levels specified, subject to any limitations indicated:

FUNCTION	LEVEL	LIMITATIONS APPLYING (IF ANY)
Navigation	Support	None
Marine Engineering	Support	None

The lawful holder of this certificate may serve in the following capacity or capacities specified in the applicable safe manning requirement of the Administration:-

CAPACITY	LIMITATIONS APPLYING (IF ANY)
Rating Forming Part of a Navigational Watch	None
Rating Forming Part of an Engine Room Watch	None

Certificate No. _____ Issued on _____

Date of Expiry: UNLIMITED

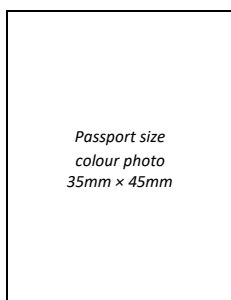
The Original of this certificate must be kept available in accordance with Regulation I/2, paragraph 11 of the STCW Convention, as amended, while its holder is serving on a ship.

Date and Place of birth of holder of certificate _____

Signature of the holder of the certificate _____

INDoS No. _____ Seafarer's Identification Document No. _____ CDC No. _____

Photograph of the holder of the certificate



 Signature of duly authorized Officer

 Name of duly authorized Officer



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY

AS
 ABLE SEAFARER – DECK (II/5)
 &
 ABLE SEAFARER – ENGINE (III/5)
 (Regulation VII/2 of STCW Convention)

Certificate Issued Under The Provisions Of The Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 (24 of 2025) And The International Convention On Standards Of Training, Certification And Watchkeeping For Seafarers (STCW), 1978, As Amended.

(Issued under the authority of Government of India)

This is to certify that Mr./Ms. _____ has been found duly qualified in accordance with the provisions of Regulation VII/2 of the STCW Convention, as amended, and has been found competent to perform the following functions at the levels specified, subject to any limitations indicated:

FUNCTION	LEVEL	LIMITATIONS APPLYING (IF ANY)
Navigation	Support	None
Marine Engineering	Support	None

The lawful holder of this certificate may serve in the following capacity or capacities specified in the applicable safe manning requirement of the Administration:-

CAPACITY	LIMITATIONS APPLYING (IF ANY)
Able Seafarer -Deck	None
Able Seafarer-Engine	None

Certificate No. _____ Issued on _____

Date of Expiry: UNLIMITED

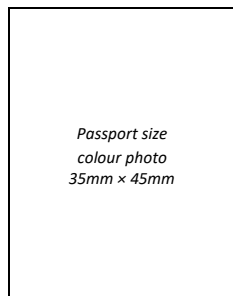
The Original of this certificate must be kept available in accordance with Regulation I/2, paragraph 11 of the STCW Convention, as amended, while its holder is serving on a ship.

Date and Place of birth of holder of certificate _____

Signature of the holder of the certificate _____

INDoS No. _____ Seafarer's Identification Document No. _____ CDC No. _____

Photograph of the holder of the certificate



 Signature of duly authorized Officer

 Name of duly authorized Officer