



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.20-11011/32/2021-TRG – DGS

Dated 02.09.2026

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Whereas, M/s. Southern Academy of Maritime Studies (SAMS), Chennai (MTI No. 402016), is a Maritime Training Institute approved by the Directorate General of Maritime Administration for conducting approved maritime training courses and is required to comply, at all times, with the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements governing such approval.

2. Whereas, such approval is subject to the MTI's continuing compliance with the applicable provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, the Merchant Shipping (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers) Rules, applicable DGS/DGMA Orders, Training Circulars, Training Manuals, conditions of approval and other directions issued by the Directorate from time to time.

3. Whereas, MMD, Chennai received various complaints against the MTI during 2021 regarding non-compliance with the prescribed requirements relating, inter alia, to faculty, infrastructure and functioning of the institute. Pursuant to the directions of the Directorate, a comprehensive inspection of the MTI was conducted on 05.08.2021 and 09.08.2021, during which 34 deficiencies, including 19 major deficiencies, were recorded.

4. Whereas, based on the inspection findings and subsequent examination of the matter, MMD, Chennai recommended regulatory action against the MTI, including blocking of its access for uploading batch details, pursuant to which the Directorate issued a Suspension Order dated 18.10.2021. The said order was challenged by the MTI before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in W.P. No. 22952 of 2021.

5. Whereas, the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, vide judgment dated 14.08.2024 in W.P. No. 22952 of 2021, directed MMD, Chennai to inspect the petitioner institution and, if satisfied with the compliance, the Directorate was to reconsider the Suspension Order. In compliance with the said judgment and subsequent directions of the Directorate, MMD, Chennai conducted an inspection of the MTI on 21.10.2024.

6. Whereas, the inspection conducted on 21.10.2024 revealed that, out of the deficiencies recorded during the 2021 inspection, 11 of the 19 major deficiencies and 14 of the 15 minor deficiencies had been rectified. However, 8 major deficiencies and 1 minor deficiency remained outstanding, and 19 new deficiencies were also observed during the said inspection.

7. Whereas, notwithstanding the subsequent submissions of compliance by the MTI and the opportunities afforded to demonstrate rectification, certain material deficiencies remained outstanding. The matter was thereafter examined by MMD, Chennai through subsequent

verification and correspondence, and MMD, Chennai made recommendations vide communications dated 30.01.2025 and 30.04.2025 for appropriate regulatory action, including restriction of the approvals and course capacities of the MTI.

8. Whereas, fresh complaints were received during July 2026 from GP Rating trainees of the MTI concerning the facilities and overall management of the institute, including hostel accommodation, mosquito infestation, food quality and hygiene, drinking-water arrangements, sanitation, grievance redressal and general administration. In view of the complaints received, the Directorate, vide letter dated 23.07.2026, directed PO MMD, Chennai to conduct a surprise inspection of the MTI and submit a detailed report.

9. Whereas, accordingly, a surprise inspection of the MTI was conducted on 04.08.2026 by the officers nominated by the Principal Officer, MMD, Chennai, pursuant to the aforesaid directions. The inspection was undertaken primarily with reference to the complaints received from the students.

10. Whereas, the surprise inspection conducted on 04.08.2026 revealed the following deficiencies and non-conformities:

A. Student attendance and administration

- i. The CAS attendance system was not functioning at the time of inspection.
- ii. The Principal and Marine Faculty were not available at the institute although three courses were running.

B. Swimming pool

- iii. The swimming pool was found not as per the applicable requirements and was not operational.

C. Fire-fighting / safety facilities

- iv. The fire mock-up was not maintained properly.
- v. The fire pump could not be started/demonstrated in operation.

D. Hostel accommodation and student welfare

- vi. Hostel rooms were segregated with four beds but were not provided with doors.
- vii. Study tables, chairs, table lamps and mirrors were not provided as required.
- viii. Window glass doors were found broken at several locations, leaving sharp-edged glass, thereby posing a potential safety hazard to students.
- ix. The hostel did not have adequate backup power arrangements, resulting in discomfort to students during power failures.

E. Food preparation, catering and hygiene

- x. Cooking staff were found preparing food under trees near toilet septic tanks, where sewage water had accumulated and mosquitoes were present.
- xi. Cooking was not being carried out in the designated kitchen using the prescribed cooking facilities.
- xii. The kitchen and cooking stoves were found dirty.
- xiii. Vegetables/provisions were not properly stored and were found placed on the floor.
- xiv. Insect catchers in the dining hall were not functioning.

- xv. The dining hall had inadequate illumination and ventilation.
- xvi. Drinking-water tanks were not provided with arrangements for periodic cleaning.

F. Toilets, sanitation and sewage

- xvii. Toilets were found damaged.
- xviii. Faucets, toilet seats and toilet doors were found damaged/broken at various locations.
- xix. Urinals were not maintained properly.
- xx. Sewage-water pipelines were found leaking along the hostel walls.

G. Faculty and training infrastructure

- xxi. The faculty load matrix available on the website was found to be outdated.
- xxii. The present faculty strength and course-wise deployment require verification against the approved courses and prescribed faculty requirements.
- xxiii. The MTI was unable to demonstrate operation of the engine of the ship available in the campus.
- xxiv. The MTI was unable to demonstrate operation of the navigation simulator.

H. CIP grading

- xxv. The MTI stated that a CIP inspection had been conducted on 12.08.2025 and that the institute had received "C1" grading. In view of the deficiencies observed during the present inspection, the validity, scope and present status of the said CIP/grading require verification.

11. Whereas, the deficiencies observed during the surprise inspection conducted on 04.08.2026, when considered in the context of the deficiencies noticed during the earlier inspections and the subsequent compliance and verification exercises, warrant consideration of the MTI's continued compliance with the requirements applicable to its approved courses and facilities.

12. Whereas, in view of the foregoing, the Directorate is of the prima-facie view that the continued operation of the MTI in its present form requires reconsideration and that appropriate regulatory action may be warranted under the applicable statutory and regulatory framework.

13. Now therefore, M/s. Southern Academy of Maritime Studies (SAMS), Chennai (MTI No. 402016), is hereby called upon to SHOW CAUSE within seven (07) days from the date of receipt of this Notice as to why appropriate regulatory action should not be taken against the MTI, including:

- i. Restriction and/or reduction of the existing approved intake and/or batch capacity of the MTI;
- ii. Withdrawal, revocation and/or appropriate restriction of the approval granted for the G.P. Rating course, including consideration of withdrawal of the said approval with effect from 01.01.2027, subject to the outcome of these proceedings;
- iii. Withdrawal, revocation and/or appropriate restriction of the approvals granted for other approved courses of the MTI, including affiliated courses, wherever the MTI fails to demonstrate compliance with the prescribed requirements;

iv. Restriction on admission of future batches in any course for which the approval is withdrawn, revoked or otherwise discontinued; and

v. Such other regulatory action as may be considered appropriate by the Competent Authority.

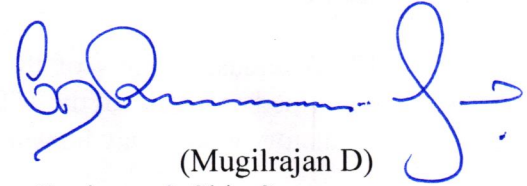
14. Further, in order to safeguard the academic and training interests of the students presently undergoing training at the MTI, the MTI shall submit, along with its reply, a complete course-wise and batch-wise statement of all such students, indicating the batch commencement date, approved intake, actual admissions, student particulars, training completed, pending training requirements and expected date of completion.

15 The MTI shall submit a single, consolidated reply, duly signed by its authorised representative, addressing each of the observations set out in paragraph 10 above and furnishing documentary or other verifiable evidence in support of its response.

16. The MTI shall be afforded an opportunity of personal hearing before the Competent Authority or an officer authorised for the purpose, as may be scheduled separately, before a final decision is taken in the matter. During the personal hearing, the MTI may place on record its explanation regarding the observations contained in this Notice, the corrective measures undertaken, the present status of compliance and the measures proposed to ensure sustained compliance.

17. Take notice that, in the event the MTI fails to submit its reply within the stipulated period, or the reply submitted is found to be unsatisfactory, incomplete or unsupported by verifiable evidence, or the MTI fails to demonstrate satisfactory and sustained corrective action, the Directorate may proceed to consider the matter on the basis of the material available on record and take such regulatory action as may be considered appropriate under the applicable statutory and regulatory framework, including restriction, revocation and/or withdrawal of approvals, without prejudice to any other action permissible under law.

18. This Show Cause Notice is issued without prejudice to any other action that may be taken against the MTI under the applicable statutory, regulatory or other legal provisions.



(Mugilrajan D)
Engineer & Ship Surveyor
Deputy Director General of Maritime
Administration (Tech) Training Branch

To:

The Principal/Director/Authorised Representative,
M/s. Southern Academy of Maritime Studies (SAMS) - MTI No. 402016
82 Panappakkam, Chennai Thiruparthi Road,
Uthukottai Taluk, Thiruvallur District,
Chennai – 601102, Tamil Nadu.

Copy to:

1. The Principal Officer, MMD, Chennai.
2. Guard File.