



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.

F. No. 23-CDC/2/2026-CREW – DGS (C. No. 38805)

Dated: 23.09.2026

DGMA CIRCULAR No. 61 OF 2026

Subject: Clarification regarding endorsement of signatures in Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC) Booklets of Masters/Shipping Masters and promulgation of guidelines in the matter – reg.

Whereas, the Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) has received several queries from various shipping companies, RPS Agencies and associations regarding the manner of endorsement/signature in the Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC) Booklets issued under the Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certificate) Rules, 2001 and the Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certificate) Rules, 2017.

2. Whereas, the stakeholders have broadly represented that, in the pages of the CDC Booklet wherein the “Details of Voyages” of a seafarer are recorded, the portion relating to signatures is divided into two sections, namely, Section (1) and Section (2). In this regard, a question has arisen as to whether the CDC Booklet is required to be signed by the Master at both the row of signing-on and signing-off of the seafarer, or whether the two sections are required to be endorsed by different authorities.

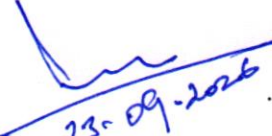
3. Whereas, several stakeholders have also brought to the notice of the Directorate the difficulties being faced by seafarers and vessels at various ports on account of differing interpretations/practices in this regard, which, in certain cases, have reportedly resulted in the imposition of fines on vessels.

4. Whereas, the concerned stakeholders have repeatedly requested the Directorate to issue an official clarification/circular on the matter so that the same may be produced before the competent authorities, as and when required, during inspections onboard vessels or otherwise.

5. Now, therefore, in order to facilitate uniform implementation and to remove any ambiguity in the matter, the Directorate hereby clarifies as follows:

5.1 The entries in CDC Booklet needs to be made upon joining with the details of Name of ship, official number, tonnage, sign-on date, Rank of the seafarer and description of Voyage.

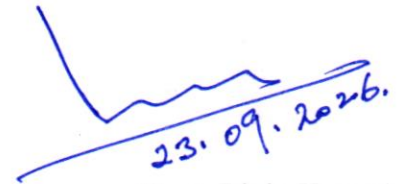
5.2 The CDC Booklet shall be signed/endorsed by the Master only once, at the time of signing-off of the seafarer. There is no requirement for a separate signature/endorsement by the Master in the CDC Booklet at the time of signing-on of the seafarer.


23-09-2026 ..2/..

5.3 No other authority, including any Consular, Shipping company, RPS Agency, Association or Maritime union, shall have the authority to make any endorsement or certification in the CDC Booklet in respect of the sea service of the seafarer/candidate.

6. It is further informed that the Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certificate) Rules, 2026 have superseded the Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certificate) Rules, 2017. Accordingly, the format of the CDC Booklet is being revised to eliminate such ambiguity and to ensure clarity with regard to the endorsement of sea service and signatures therein.

7. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority / Director General of Maritime Administration.



23.09.2026.

(Capt. Bipin Kumar)

Dy. Director General of Maritime Administration
Directorate General of Maritime Administration

To,

1. All Seafarers
2. All Shipping Companies
3. All RPS Agencies
4. All concern Associations (INSA / MASSA / FOSMA / ICCSA)
5. All Seafarer' Unions
6. All other concern stakeholders