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. 13-11/4/2026-ENGG - DGS **October 26, 2026**

DGMA EAC Branch Circular No.72 of 2026

Subject: Changes in the Dredge Engineer Grade examinations, reg.

I. Background

1. The Merchant Shipping (Examination of Dredge Driver and Dredge Engineers) Rules, 1982 has prescribed the syllabus and structure of the Dredge grade Certificate of Competency examinations. The technical developments in dredging worldwide caused the companies operating the dredgers to raise the intake standards in line with the requirements of their company's safety management systems.
2. There have been demands from the stakeholders to consider granting exemption for the candidates who hold a degree in mechanical or marine engineering from an approved University, when appearing for the Dredge Engineer Grade I examinations from the 'Machine Drawing' subject.
3. The Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) presently conducts the Dredge Grade CoC examinations once a year and there have been demands to increase the frequency of these examinations, so that the candidates who have commenced their pre-sea training before the anticipated notification of the new MS(STCW) Rules have adequate opportunity to complete the CoC examinations.
4. The current Dredge Grade examinations require the candidates to qualify in both the written and oral examinations for the subject concerned together. There have been demands to detach the written and oral exams so that the candidates can keep the credit for qualifying in either of them.

II. Decision of the competent authority

The Chief Examiner of Engineers, on careful assessment of the requests from the stakeholders, to facilitate and offer reasonable number of opportunities to candidates appearing for the Dredge Grade CoC examinations, has approved the following changes to the Dredge Grade Engineers CoC examinations:

1. All Dredge Engineer Grade I candidates who have a degree, B.E/B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering/Marine Engineering, shall be henceforth exempted from appearing for the 'Machine Drawing' subject.

   This shall also be applicable to candidates who have completed their eligibility assessment before the issuance of this circular.

2. The candidates who appear for the written and oral examination and pass in either of them shall not be required to re-appear for both the examinations again. The practice of written and oral examination for the Dredge Engineer Grade I and Dredge Engineer Grade II forming a single evaluation unit has been discontinued with. The credit for whichever exam passed can be carried forward. This shall be applied prospectively w.e.f. the examinations to be conducted in November 2026.
3. The Dredge Engineer Grade examinations shall be henceforth conducted four times in a calendar year, and the same shall be notified separately in the yearly examination calendar for the year 2027.

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

(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. Sr.PS, Chief Surveyor with the Govt.of India
7. Sr.PS, Nautical Advisor to the Govt of India
8. Engineering Wing
9. Hindi cell
10. Computer cell