

The draft NT-ENG Circular may be examined and comments, if any can be communicated to Shri. Praveen Nair, Dy.CS(i/c), DG Shipping at praveen.nair@gov.in latest by March 20, 2025



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

draft NT/ENG Circular No. xx of 2025

File No. 13-11014/15/2020-ENGG - DGS	Date: 03.03.2025
Subject: Training and Certification of Seafarers on ships subject to IGF Code	
References:	a) DGS Circular (NT/ENG) No. 3 of 2021 issued on 22/01/2021 b) Merchant Shipping Notice No.6 of 2024 issued on 13/02/2024
Part-I: Background <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The International Code of Safety for ships using gas or other low flashpoint fuels (IGF Code) was adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) vide Res.MSC.391(95) and the Code entered into force on 01/01/2017.2. The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, was amended to support the requirement for training in the IGF Code. The new mandatory minimum requirements in the STCW Convention and Code, for the training and qualifications of relevant personnel on ships subject to the IGF Code entered into force on 1 January 2017.3. The administration had issued NT/ENG circular No.3 of 2021, which enclosed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to be followed by the seafarers while applying for a Certificate of Proficiency (Basic & Advanced) initially and the process of revalidation of such CoPs issued, thereafter.4. The emergence of several alternate fuel candidates has led to the development of interim guidelines for the safety of ships using such alternate fuels.	

5. Recognizing the trend of ships being built or retrofitted, with such fuels, it is necessary to develop interim training standards for seafarers working on board alternatively fueled ships. The interim guidelines mandate that the master, officers, ratings and other personnel on ships using such fuels should be trained and qualified in accordance with regulation V/3 of the STCW Convention and section A-V/3 of the STCW Code, taking into account the specific hazards of the each of these potential fuel alternatives.
6. The IGF Code defines ‘Bunkering’ as “the transfer of fuel from land-based or floating facilities into ships' permanent tanks or connection of portable tanks to the fuel supply system.”
7. It has been recognized that ships are being designed and built to use a variety of alternate fuels, amongst which, some can use the fuel which is carried as cargo; and, do not need to bunker the fuel from an external source. In these ships, the bunkering operation is non-existent and the fuel for domestic shipboard consumption is transferred from the cargo tank(s) to the designated bunker tanks internally. These vessels do not necessarily undertake any ‘bunkering’ operations as defined by the IGF Code.

Consequently, although these ships are classified as ‘ships subject to the IGF Code’ but have been reported to be finding it difficult to comply with the STCW Reg.V/3.8 for issuance of a Certificate of Proficiency for advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code.

8. The DGS Circular (NT/ENG) No. 3 of 2021 issued on 22/01/2021 hereby stands superseded by this Circular and the process for obtaining the Certificate of Proficiency is detailed in Part II of this Circular for the understanding of the stake holders.

Part II: Training for seafarers working on ships subject to the IGF Code

9. The STCW Reg.V/3.2 requires seafarers to have completed training prior to being assigned shipboard duties on board ships subject to the IGF Code. There are two levels of training for those who work on ships subject to the IGF Code:
 - Basic Training for Service on Ships Subject to the IGF Code, STCW Code Section AV/3-1;
 - Advanced Training for Service on Ships Subject to the IGF Code, STCW Code, SCTW Code Section A-V/3-2.

Part III: Certification for seafarers to work on ships subject to IGF Code

(A) Certificate of proficiency (CoP) in basic training for IGF

10. Seafarers responsible for designated safety duties associated with the care, use or in emergency response to the fuel on board ships subject to the IGF Code shall hold a certificate of proficiency (CoP) in basic training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code. The requirements for issuance of such a **CoP in basic training** are as under:

- (a) Complete an approved basic training programme for ships subject to the IGF Code in accordance with the provisions of section A-V/3, paragraph 1 of the STCW Code. The validity of the CoP issued shall be for a period not exceeding five years from the date of issue of the basic training certificate by the MTI; **or**
- (b) Hold a valid Certificate of Proficiency in basic training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations issued within the last 5 years, in accordance with STCW Convention regulation V/1-2. The validity of the CoP issued in this category shall be limited to a period not exceeding five years from the date of issuance of the Basic Gas Tanker CoP; **or**
- (c) Hold a valid Certificate of Proficiency in Advanced training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations issued within the last 5 years, in accordance with Regulation V/1-2. The validity of the CoP issued in this category shall be limited to a period not exceeding five years from the date of issuance of the Advanced Gas Tanker CoP.

(B) Certificate of proficiency (CoP) in Advanced training for IGF

11. Masters, engineer officers and all personnel with immediate responsibility for the care and use of fuels and fuel systems on ships subject to the IGF Code shall hold a certificate of proficiency (CoP) in advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code. The requirements for issuance of such a **CoP in advanced training** are for ease of understanding categorized as under:

(1) Seafarer with CoP in Basic Training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code (Basic Training -IGF Code)

- (i) The seafarer shall complete an approved advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code and meet the standard of competence as specified in section A-V/3, paragraph 2 of the STCW Code; **and**

- (ii) Complete at least one month of approved seagoing service that includes a minimum of three bunkering operations onboard ships subject to the IGF Code. Two of the three bunkering operations may be replaced by approved simulator training on bunkering operations as part of the training in (i) above. For this purpose, on ships subject to IGF Code as referred in Part 1, para 7 of this circular, one Loading operation & subsequent transfer to the designated bunker tanks will be considered equivalent to one bunkering operation.

Note:

- a) No CoP for advanced training shall be issued to seafarers without a Certificate of Competency (CoC). However, all seafarers are permitted to attend advanced training course, if required by the Company.
- b) The seafarer shall be permitted to undertake the advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code (Advanced IGF Course) only after they have been issued with a Certificate of Proficiency for the Basic IGF CoP.

(2) Seafarer holding Advanced level CoP in Liquefied Gas Tanker Cargo Operations (Advanced -Gas CoP)

12. Masters, engineer officers and any person with immediate responsibility for the care and use of fuels on ships subject to the IGF Code who are qualified and hold the Advanced level Certificate of Proficiency for service on liquefied gas tankers are considered as having met the requirements specified in section A-V/3 paragraph 2 for advanced training for ships subject to the IGF Code provided, they have also met the following requirements:

- (i) Seafarer should hold a Certificate of Proficiency in basic training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code, or met the requirements specified in section A-V/3, paragraph 1 of the STCW Code, for basic training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code; **(and)**
- (ii) Met the bunkering requirement of the paragraph 11(1)(ii) of this part of the circular, or have participated in conducting three cargo operations onboard the liquefied gas tanker; **(and)**

(iii) Have completed seagoing service of three months in the previous five years onboard:

- Ships subject to the IGF Code; **or**
- Tankers carrying cargo, fuels covered by the IGF Code; **or**
- Ships use gases or low flashpoint fuel as fuel.

Note: No CoP for advanced training shall be issued to seafarers without a Certificate of Competency (CoC). However, all seafarers are permitted to attend advanced training course, if required by the Company.

Part IV: Renewal of Certificate of Proficiency issued for service on ships subject to IGF Code

(1) Renewal of Certificate of Proficiency in Basic training for ships subject to IGF Code (Basic CoP)

- (a) Seafarers can apply for renewal of the Basic IGF CoP issued within six months period before expiry of the CoP;
- (b) The Seafarer shall have to submit either evidence by way of letter from the Company for the seagoing service of at least three months on ships subject to the IGF Code in the previous five years; or undertake the basic training course for service on ships subject to the IGF Code.

(2) Renewal of Certificate of Proficiency in Advanced training for ships subject to IGF Code (Advanced CoP)

- (a) Seafarers can apply for renewal of the Advanced IGF CoP issued within six months period before expiry of the CoP;
- (b) The Seafarer shall have to submit either evidence by way of letter from the Company for the seagoing service of at least three months on ships subject to the IGF Code in the previous five years; or undertake the Advanced training course for service on ships subject to the IGF Code.

Table-1
Certification Requirements for Seafarers to Work on
Ships Subject to the IGF Code

Category	Requirement	Details
(1) Basic Training (CoP)	Completion of Approved Basic Training (OR)	Attend and complete an approved basic training program as per Section A-V/3, paragraph 1 of the STCW Code.
	Possession of a Valid Basic Gas Tanker CoP (OR)	Hold a valid CoP in Basic Training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations issued within the last five years.
	Possession of a Valid Advanced Gas Tanker CoP	Hold a valid CoP in Advanced Training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations issued within the last five years.
(2) Advanced Training (CoP)	(A) Basic CoP (IGF) Holders	
	Completion of Approved Advanced Training (AND)	Successfully complete an advanced training program, meeting competency standards as per Section A-V/3, paragraph 2 of the STCW Code.
	Approved Seagoing Service and Bunkering Operations (AND)	Complete 1 month of seagoing service, including 3 bunkering operations (2 may be simulator-based). Loading and transferring of IGF counts as 1 bunkering operation on ships not engaged in bunkering operations of IGF.
	Eligibility for Advanced CoP	Must possess a valid CoP in Basic Training for the IGF Code before enrolling in advanced training.
	(B) Advanced Gas Tanker CoP Holders	
	Basic Training Compliance (AND)	Hold a CoP in Basic Training for ships subject to the IGF Code or meet the requirements specified in Section A-V/3, paragraph 1 of the STCW Code.
	Bunkering Operations Requirement (AND)	Meet the bunkering requirement as stated above or have participated in 3 cargo operations onboard a liquefied gas tanker.
	Seagoing Service	Complete 3 months of seagoing service in the previous 5 years on Ships subject to the IGF Code, tankers carrying IGF fuels as cargo, or ships using gases or low flashpoint fuels.
(3) Renewal of CoP	Renewal of Basic CoP	
	Application Period	Seafarers can apply within six months before expiry of the Basic IGF CoP.
	Requirements	Submit evidence of at least 3 months of seagoing service on IGF Code ships in the previous 5 years or retake the Basic IGF training course.
	Renewal of Advanced CoP	
	Application Period	Seafarers can apply within six months before expiry of the Advanced IGF CoP.
	Requirements	Submit evidence of at least 3 months of seagoing service on IGF Code ships in the previous 5 years or retake the Advanced IGF training course.

Note:

Eligibility for Advanced CoP: A CoP in Advanced Training will not be issued to seafarers who do not hold a valid Certificate of Competency (CoC). However, such seafarers may attend the advanced training course if required by their company.

Prerequisite for Advanced Training: Seafarers must possess a valid CoP in Basic Training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code before enrolling in the advanced training program.

The standard operating procedure for obtaining the COP is hyperlinked to this Circular - [“Standard Operating Procedure for issuance of IGF COP”](#) and can be used for detailed guidance on the process.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

sd/-

(Praveen Nair)

Dy.CS(i/c)

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. Foreign Owner and Ship-Managers Association (FOSMA)
5. The Maritime Association of Ship Owners, Ship Managers and Agents (MASSA)
6. Indian Coastal Conference Shipping Association (ICCSA), Mumbai
7. Institute of Marine Engineers (India)
8. Engineering Wing
9. Nautical Wing
10. Hindi cell
11. Computer cell

Copy to:

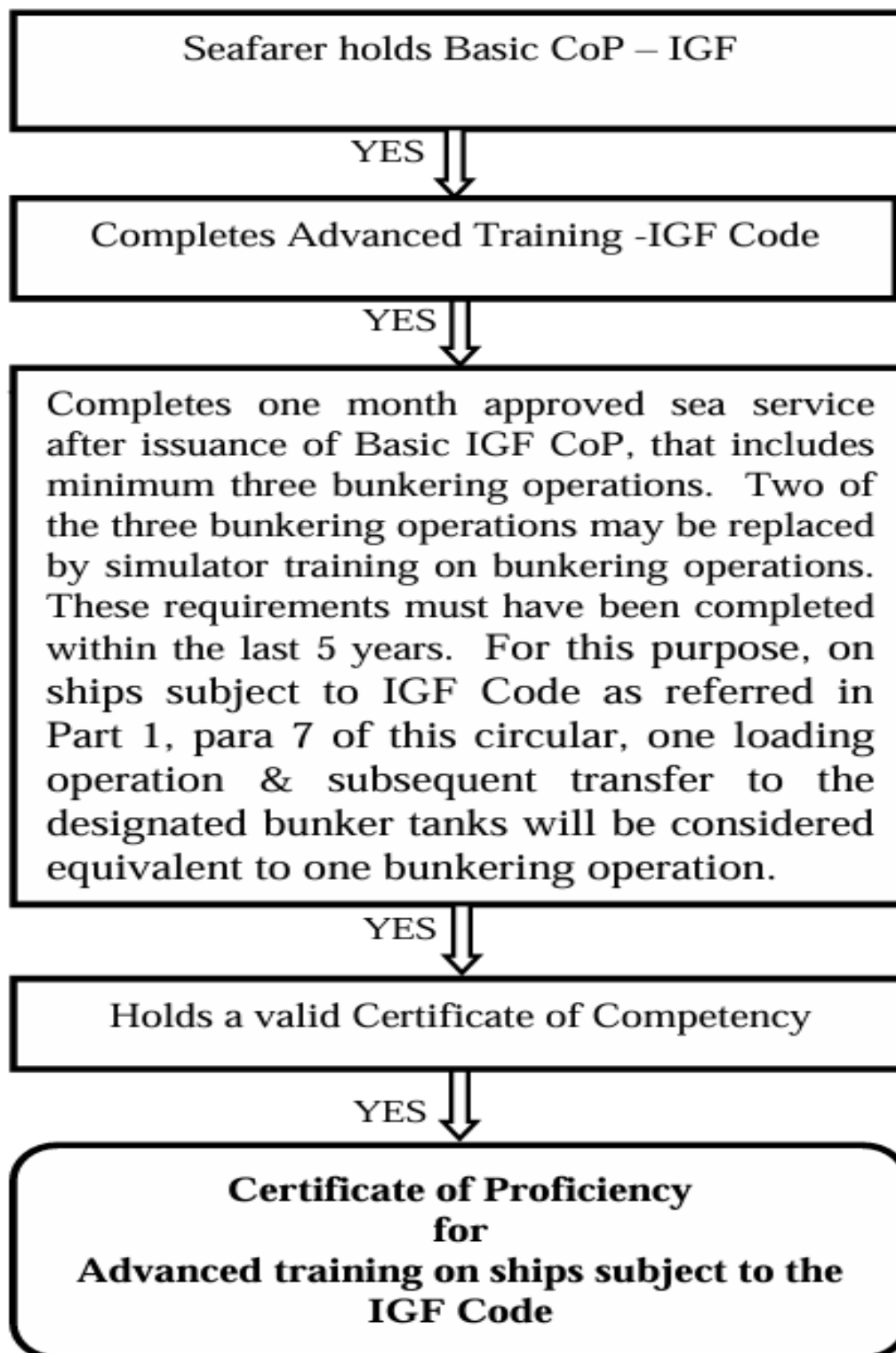
12. The Chief Surveyor with the Govt.of India
13. Nautical Advisor (i/c) to the Govt.of India
14. Surveyors of Engineering & Nautical wing of the DGS

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

9th Floor, BETA Building, I-Think Techno Campus, Kanjur Village Road, Kanjurmarg (E), Mumbai-400042

फ़ोन/Tel No.: +91-22-2575 2040/1/2/3 फ़ैक्स/Fax.: +91-22-2575 2029/35 ई-मेल/Email: dgship-dgs@nic.in वेबसाइट/Website: www.dgshipping.gov.in

*Flow chart showing two indicative paths for issuance of CoP for Advanced Training
– IGF Code (category-A)*



Flow chart showing two indicative paths for issuance of CoP for Advanced Training

– IGF Code (category B)

