



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

DGS CIRCULAR 12 Of 2026

File No. 25-104/4/2026-NT – DGS Comp no. 38720		Date: 09.03.2026
Authorised By: Chief Examiner of Master & Mates	Subject: Implementation of the 2016 amendments to the STCW Convention and Code relating to Regulation V/2 – Training and Certification requirements for personnel on passenger ships - reg.	
Issued By: Nautical Wing EAC Branch.	DGS STCW CIRCULAR 02 of 2026	
<p>1. The Directorate General of Shipping remains firmly committed to upholding maritime safety and promoting professional excellence in the maritime sector. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) periodically amends the STCW Convention to address emerging challenges and evolving requirements in the maritime sector. As a proactive member state, India places a high priority on the timely implementation of these instruments.</p> <p>2. The purpose of this Circular is to notify implementation of the 2016 amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended, adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the IMO via Resolutions MSC.416(97) and MSC.417(97). These resolution introduces revised and enhanced training and certification requirements under Regulation V/2 for personnel serving on passenger ships.</p> <p>3. In pursuance of the above, the following competency tables are hereby notified and annexed to this circular</p> <p>(a) Annexure A – Table A-V/2-1: Specification of minimum standard of competence in passenger ship crowd management training; and</p> <p>(b) Annexure B – Table A-V/2-2: Specification of minimum standard of competence in passenger ship crisis management and human behaviour training.</p> <p>4. In line with the amendments, the following mandatory minimum requirements for the training and qualification of masters, officers, ratings and other personnel on passenger ships are hereby notified:-</p>		

a) Passenger Ship Emergency Familiarization Training

All personnel serving on board passenger ships engaged on international voyages shall, before being assigned shipboard duties, complete Passenger Ship Emergency Familiarization Training covering the competencies prescribed in Section A-V/2, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the STCW Code.

b) Safety Training for Personnel Providing Direct Service to Passengers

Personnel providing direct service to passengers in passenger spaces shall receive the additional safety training required under regulation V/2, paragraph 6.

c) Passenger Ship Crowd Management Training

Masters, officers and ratings qualified in accordance with chapters II, III and VII, and personnel designated on the muster list to assist passengers in emergency situations, shall have successfully completed the crowd management training required under regulation V/2, paragraph 7, as set out in table A-V/2-1 of STCW Code, herein annexed as **ANNEXURE A**.

d) Crisis Management and Human Behavior Training

Before being assigned to shipboard duties, masters, chief mates, and any person designated on the muster list as having responsibility for the safety of passengers in emergency situations shall have successfully completed the approved crisis management and human behavior training required under regulation V/2, paragraph 8, as set out in table A-V/2-2 of STCW Code, herein annexed as **ANNEXURE B**.

e) Passenger Safety, Cargo Safety and Hull Integrity Training (Ro-Ro Passenger Ships)

Before being assigned to shipboard duties, masters, chief mates, and every person assigned immediate responsibility for embarking and disembarking passengers, for loading, discharging or securing cargo, or for closing hull openings on board ro-ro passenger ships shall receive the passenger safety, cargo safety and hull integrity training required under regulation V/2, paragraph 9.

5. The training requirements, course content, assessment standards, and certificate format prescribed under DGS Training Circular No. 05 of 2016 shall be deemed to satisfy the above requirements. Certificates issued pursuant to Training Circular No. 05 of 2016 shall remain valid, subject to continued service and compliance with national regulations.
6. RPSL Managers, ISM Managers, Maritime training institutes, and seafarers shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this circular. Non-compliance shall attract action under the applicable provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act and STCW Rules.

7. This circular supplements and clarifies Training Circular No. 05 of 2016 and shall be read in conjunction with DGS (NT/ENG) Circular No. 18 of 2025.

This issues with the approval of Chief Examiner of Master and Mates.



09/03/26

(Capt. Ravi Singh Sikarwar)
Nautical Surveyor-cum-DDG(Tech.)

Enclosures:-

Annexure-A- Specification of minimum standard of competence in passenger ship crowd management training.

Annexure-B- Specification of minimum standard of competence in passenger ship crisis management and human behavior.

Copy to:

1. DGS Secretariat
2. Nautical Advisor to the Government of India
3. All Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs)
4. All RPSL Companies
5. INSA / MASSA / FOSMA / ICCSA
6. Computer Cell – for uploading on the DGS website.

Table A-V/2-1**Annexure-A**

*Specification of minimum standard of competence in passenger
ship crowd management training*

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Contribute to the implementation of shipboard emergency plans and procedures to muster and evacuate passengers	<p>Knowledge of the shipboard emergency plans, instructions and procedures related to the management and evacuation of passengers</p> <p>Knowledge of applicable crowd management techniques and relevant equipment to be used to assist passengers in an emergency situation</p> <p>Knowledge of muster lists and emergency instructions</p>	Assessment of evidence obtained from training and/or instruction	Actions taken in case of an emergency are appropriate and comply with established procedures
Assist passengers <i>en route</i> to muster and embarkation stations	<p>Ability to give clear reassuring orders</p> <p>Ability to manage passengers in corridors, staircases and passageways</p> <p>Understanding the importance of and having the ability to maintain escape routes clear of obstructions</p> <p>Knowledge of methods available for evacuation of disabled persons and persons needing special assistance</p>	Assessment of evidence obtained from practical training and/or instruction	Actions taken conform with emergency plans, instructions and procedures Information given to individuals, emergency response teams and passengers is accurate, relevant and timely

Knowledge of methods of searching passenger accommodation and public spaces

Ability to disembark passengers, with special attention to disabled persons and persons needing assistance

Importance of effective mustering procedures, including:

- .1 the importance of keeping order;
- .2 the ability to use procedures for reducing and avoiding panic;
- .3 the ability to use, where appropriate, passenger lists for evacuation counts;
- .4 the importance of passengers being suitably clothed as far as possible when mustering; and
5. the ability to check that the passengers have donned their life jackets correctly.

Table A-V/2-2
Annexure-B

*Specification of minimum standard of competence in
passenger ship crisis management and human behavior.*

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Organize shipboard emergency procedures	<p>Knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .1 the general design and layout of the ship .2 safety regulations .3 emergency plans and procedures <p>The importance of the principles for the development of ship-specific emergency procedures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .1 the need for pre-planning and drills of shipboard emergency procedures .2 the need for all personnel to be aware of and adhere to pre-planned emergency procedures as carefully as possible in the event of an emergency situation 	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved training, exercises with one or more prepared emergency plans and practical demonstration	The shipboard emergency procedures ensure a state of readiness to respond to emergency situations
Optimize the use of resources	<p>Ability to optimize the use of resources, taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .1 the possibility that resources available in an emergency may be limited .2 the need to make full use of personnel and equipment immediately available and, if necessary, to improvise <p>Ability to organize realistic drills to maintain a state of readiness, taking into account lessons learnt from previous accidents involving passenger ships; debriefing after drills</p>	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved training, practical demonstration and shipboard training and drills of emergency procedures	<p>Contingency plans optimize the use of available resources</p> <p>Allocation of tasks and responsibilities reflects the known competence of individuals</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities of teams and individuals are clearly defined</p>

Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Control response to emergencies	<p>Ability to make an initial assessment and provide an effective response to emergency situations in accordance with established emergency procedures</p> <p><i>Leadership skills</i></p> <p>Ability to lead and direct others in emergency situations, including the need:</p> <p>.1 to set an example during emergency situations</p> <p>.2 to focus decision making, given the need to act quickly in an emergency</p> <p>.3 to motivate, encourage and reassure passengers and other personnel</p> <p><i>Stress handling</i></p> <p>Ability to identify the development of symptoms of excessive personal stress and those of other members of the ship's emergency team</p> <p>Understanding that stress generated by emergency situations can affect the performance of individuals and their ability to act on instructions and follow procedures</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from approved training, practical demonstration and shipboard training and drills of emergency procedures</p>	<p>Procedures and actions are in accordance with established principles and plans for crisis management on board</p> <p>Objectives and strategy are appropriate to the nature of the emergency, take account of contingencies and make optimum use of available resources</p> <p>Actions of crew members contribute to maintaining order and control</p>

<p>Control passengers and other personnel during emergency situations</p>	<p><i>Human behaviour and responses</i></p> <p>Ability to control passengers and other personnel in emergency situations, including:</p> <p>awareness of the general reaction patterns of passengers and other personnel in emergency situations, including the possibility that:</p> <p>1.1 generally it takes some time before people accept the fact that there is an emergency situation</p> <p>1.2 some people may panic and not behave with a normal level of rationality, that their ability to comprehend may be impaired and they may not be as responsive to instructions as in non-emergency situations</p> <p>.2 awareness that passengers and other personnel may, inter alia:</p> <p>2.1 start looking for relatives, friends and/or their belongings as a first reaction when something goes wrong</p> <p>2.2 seek safety in their cabins or in other places on board where they think that they can escape danger</p> <p>2.3 tend to move to the upper side when the ship is listing</p> <p>3. appreciation of the possible problem of panic resulting from separating families</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from approved training, practical demonstration and shipboard training and drills of emergency procedures</p>	<p>Actions of crew members contribute to maintaining order and control</p>
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<p>Establish and maintain effective communications</p>	<p>Ability to establish and maintain effective communications, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .1 the importance of clear and concise instructions and reports .2 the need to encourage an exchange of information with, and feedback from, passengers and other personnel <p>Ability to provide relevant information to passengers and other personnel during an emergency situation, to keep them apprised of the overall situation and to communicate any action required of them, taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .1 the language or languages appropriate to the principal nationalities of passengers and other personnel carried on the particular route .2 the possible need to communicate during an emergency by some other means, such as by demonstration, or by hand signals or calling attention to the location of instructions, muster stations, life-saving devices or evacuation routes, when oral communication is impractical .3 the language in which emergency announcements may be broadcast during an emergency or drill to convey critical guidance to passengers and to facilitate crew members in assisting passengers 	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from approved training, exercises and practical demonstration</p>	<p>Information from all available sources is obtained, evaluated and confirmed as quickly as possible and reviewed throughout the emergency evaluated and confirmed as quickly as possible and reviewed throughout the emergency</p> <p>Information given to individuals, emergency response teams and passengers is accurate, relevant and timely</p> <p>Information keeps passengers informed as to the nature of the emergency and the actions required of them</p>
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