Subject: Shipboard training for B.Sc. (Nautical) and Graduate Mechanical Engineer (GME) trainees.

The Directorate General of Shipping has noticed with concern, a substantial backlog in completion of Structured Shipboard Training Programme (SSTP) mainly in the Nautical Stream and to a significant extent, in the Engineering Stream as well. There is a felt need for reducing the SSTP backlog, which not only creates unemployment among the trainees, it impedes supply of manpower to the shipping industry in India and worldwide. The DGS has already initiated a number of measures to reduce this backlog.

As a further measure, it is decided that the Certificate of Endorsement (CoE) issued to holders of Certificate of Competency (CoC) from other flag States at the level of Master, Chief Mate, Chief Engineer or Second Engineer, will henceforth be subject to the condition that the deployment of such CoE holders on any Indian ship will have to be done in conjunction with deployment of one B.Sc. Nautical cadet for the Nautical side and one GME as the trainee Marine Engineer on the Engineering side during the period of deployment of the CoE holder. Further, the Master and the Chief Engineer of the ship has to undertake to supervise the quality of the training of these trainees as per the prescribed TAR book. This condition is imposed pursuant to the powers under sub-section (3) of Section 406 of the Merchant Shipping Act.

The sea time calculation for the trainee will be as per the existing procedure depending on the nature of the ship.

The deployment of the trainees will be over and above the Tonnage Tax commitment of the concerned company.

The Maritime Training Trust (MTT) branch of the Directorate and the Principal Officer / Surveyor-in-Charge, Mercantile Marine Departments will monitor and ensure compliance through flag state control and at the time of issuance of CoE as applicable. All CoE validity will be limited for 2 years henceforth, to facilitate monitoring.

Ship owners may have option to arrange providing of such training on another Indian ship or a ship of the company’s subsidiary abroad.

This measure is purely temporary and will be in force only for 2 years.

This issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping.

(Capt. S.K. Shukla)
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