Seafarers with Global Maritime Distress Safety system (GMDSS) General Operations Certificates (GoCs) were being issued with restricted Continuous Discharge Certificates (CDCs) valid for 2 years, which was subsequently extended to 10 years vide this office Merchant Shipping (M.S.) Notice No. 08 of 2011 [3(15)/CR/2006] dated 14.03.11 & M.S. Notice No. 29 of 2013 [F.No. 3(15)/CR?2006] dated 02.12.13, respectively. The restriction was imposed to deter the holders of such CDCs, who had obtained the same without having undergone the normal Maritime training pre-sea course, not to migrate to other categories, to preempt encroaching upon the job opportunities of the other streams of seafarers like G.P. Rating etc, who have otherwise undergone a prescribed pre-sea maritime training of 6 months for the purpose.

2. It is reported that jobs related to radio communications function on board a ship are, at present, limited, consequent to the implementation of the Standards of Training certification & watch keeping (STCW) Convention, 1995. (as the competency of radio communications functions are covered in the certificate of competency issued to (Deck/Nautical Officers). However, it is also noticed that such restricted CDC holders are offered jobs in other categories on board ships, especially of the foreign flags. The professional career opportunities available to such candidates need due consideration.
At the same time, the employment opportunities for candidates who have completed the prescribed pre-sea training, should not be undermined, otherwise, by such certificate (GoC-GMDSS) holders.

3. The Indian Maritime Administration also has the responsibility of seeking to increase the share of Indian National seafarers in the world shipping to about 9% as per the National Maritime Agenda 2010-20.

4. Indian seafarers, who are working with foreign flag ships without an Indian CDC, were also facilitated for obtaining an Indian CDC on the basis of their experience on board such vessels for 24 months, vide this office DG Shipping Order Nos. 08 & 09 of 2013 [F.No. CR/CDC (Special)/2013] dated 22.03.2013 & 10.04.13. Such seafarers can obtain an Indian CDC in the last rank served by them. Instances/representations were noticed/received that Indian seafarers who have applied for Indian CDCs in the experience category as per the said DGS Orders, however, could not get the same as they are in possession of either a valid or expired Indian CDC in the GMDSS category. Instances have also been brought to notice, wherein a GMDSS, CDC holder who has completed other maritime training courses like HND etc., or obtained a Certificate of Competency issued by a foreign nation based on a HND diploma or other experience is not able to either revalidate his Indian CDC or obtain an endorsement on his CDC for his new qualification.

5. These issues have been scrutinized holistically, especially with an overall view of enhancing the employability & employment potential of Indian seafarers, globally and to boost the share of Indian seafarers in the global shipping arena and also to overcome the bottlenecks explained above. Now, therefore, the Director General of Shipping, Govt. of India, IN pursuance of the power conferred on him under section 456 of the M.S. Act, 1958, read together with the Gazette notification of the Ministry of Shipping, Govt of India S.O. No. 3144 dated 17.12.60 hereby issues the following directives.
5.1. A seafarer who is in possession of a valid/expired Indian CDC in the GMDSS category, and has qualification & experience as prescribed in the said DGS Orders 08/09 of 2013 & 6 of 2014 or has obtained a CoC issued by a foreign nation, recognized by Govt. of India or has successfully completed a foreign HND course may apply for an Indian CDC, duly enclosing his Indian CDC of the GMDSS category, in original apart from the other requirements as per respective orders. Such applications shall be submitted to the Shipping Masters, Govt. Shipping Offices, Chennai, Kolkata & Mumbai in an offline mode only in the form prescribed under this office DGS Order No. 09 of 2013 [F.No. CR/CDC (Special)/2013] dated 10.04.13, along with the CDC possessed by such a candidate (in original).

5.2 The Shipping Masters, Govt. Shipping Offices, Chennai, Kolkata & Mumbai shall consider such applications as per DGS Orders No. 08/09 of 2013 & No. 06 of 2014 for the experience category, DGS Order 04 of 2014 for HND category and M.S. (CDC) Rules, 2001 for the foreign CoC category & reissue a CDC in the respective category with the same number as the original CDC.

5.2.1 The original CDC of the candidate in the GMDSS shall be cancelled with a cancellation stamp stating that “CDC reissued in the experience category as per DGS Order No. 11 of 2014 [F.No. 3 (15) CR/2006] dated 30.07.14.

6. All the other terms & conditions of this office DGS Order Nos. 8/9 of 2013 & No. 04/06 of 2014 & no. 04 of 2014 remains unchanged.

7. This order shall come into force with an immediate effect and shall remain in force until further orders.

Sd/-

(Gautam Chatterjee)
Director General of Shipping, GoI
Copy forwarded for an information & necessary action to the;

1. Shipping Masters, Govt. Shipping Offices, Chennia, Kolkata & Mumbai.
2. Directors, Seamen’s Employment Offices, Mumbai/Chennai/Kolkata.
3. Principal Officers, MMDs, Mumbai/Kolkata/Chennai/kochi/kandla.
4. Surveyors-in-Charge, MMDs, Visakhapatnam/Tuticorin/Port Blair/Jamnager/Marmagoa/New Mangalore/Noida/ Paradip/Haldia.
5. Indian Maritime University, Chennia/LBS College, Mumbai.
6. DGS approved maritime training institutes.
7. INSA/FOSMA/MASSA.
8. NUSI/MUI
9. Engineering/Nautical /Naval Architecture/ Training Branch. DGS, GoI.
10. Hindi Branch, DGS, GoI for a translation of the Order & for getting the same Uploaded in DGS website.
11. Computer Brach, DGS GoI for uploading on the DGS Website with its hindi translation.
12. Sr. P.S. to the DGS. GoI

Copy submitted for an information to the Secretary to Govt. of India Ministry of Shipping, transport Bhavan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi.