



**MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 3 OF 2026**

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Applicable to: Holders of STCW Certificates issued by Singapore

REVALIDATION OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, 1978 (STCW 1978), AS AMENDED BY SINGAPORE

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), as Singapore's maritime administration, and the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), as Singapore's national telecommunications regulator, issue seafarer's certificates prescribed under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW 1978), as amended, under each authority's respective regulatory frameworks.

2 This circular provides guidance to applicants on the specific requirements for revalidating Singapore-issued STCW certificates required by the respective authorities, as detailed in the following annexes:

Annex	STCW Certificate	Issuing Authority
A	Deck Officers Certificate of Competency	MPA
B	Marine Engineer Officers and Electro Technical Officer Certificate of Competency	
C	Tanker Endorsement	
D	Certificate of Proficiency issued under the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code)	
E	Certificate of Proficiency issued under International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or other Low-flashpoint Fuels (IGF Code)	
F	Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) General/Restricted Operator Certificate (GOC/ROC)	IMDA

3 Applicants are reminded to **not** submit applications for certificate revalidation more than twelve months prior to the certificate expiration date(s).

4 Any enquiries regarding this circular should be directed to MPA (Email: COC@mpa.gov.sg) or IMDA (Email: info@imda.gov.sg) for the respective certificate revalidations.

5 This circular supersedes Shipping Circulars No. 26 of 2016 and 09 of 2020.

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REQUIREMENTS FOR REVALIDATION OF DECK OFFICER CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY (COC) ISSUED BY SINGAPORE

Professional competence

Continued professional competence for revalidation of Singapore-issued Deck officer COCs shall be established by:

- a. approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
 - i) twelve months in total during the preceding five years, or
 - ii) three months in total during the preceding six months immediately prior to revalidating; or
- b. having performed duties deemed equivalent to seagoing service for a minimum of thirty months within the five years preceding the revalidation application. Occupations considered to provide essential updates in professional knowledge may include marine surveyor, marine officer, marine superintendent, nautical studies lecturer, deck officer examiner, ship surveyor, cargo surveyor, licensed harbour pilot, or other related professions that may be assessed on a case-by-case basis; or
- c. passing an approved test(s) by MPA; or
- d. successfully completing an MPA-approved training course(s); or
- e. having completed approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of not less than three months in a supernumerary capacity, or in a lower officer rank than that for which the certificate held is valid immediately prior to taking up the rank for which it is valid.

Completion of refresher / updating courses

This table provides a list of certificates required for revalidating Deck Officer COCs issued by Singapore.

COC classes	Required refresher / updating courses certificates
Deck officer COC Class 1 (Master Mariner)	A,B,C,E,F,H
Deck officer COC Class 2	A,B,C,E,F,H
Deck officer COC Class 3	A,B,C,D,F,H
Deck officer COC Class 4	A,B,C,D,F,H
Deck officer COC Class 5	A,B,C,D,F,H
Deck officer COC Class 5 (Special Limits)	A,B,C,D,G,H
Deck officer COC Class 4 (Special Limits)	A,B,C,D,G,H
Deck officer COC Class 6	A,B,C,D,G,H
<p>Legend:</p> <p>A. The certificate confirming successful completion of refresher training for competencies in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats, in accordance with STCW Code Part A, Section A-VI/2.5.</p> <p>B. The certificate confirming successful completion of refresher training for competencies in advanced firefighting, in accordance with STCW Code Part A, Section A-VI/3.5.</p> <p>C. The certificate of completion for revised personal safety and social responsibilities training that includes prevention and response to Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment (SASH), in accordance with IMO Resolution MSC.560(108), or completion of a standalone SASH prevention and response training module.</p> <p>D. The certificate confirming successful completion of refresher training for competencies in providing medical first aid on board ship, as specified in STCW Code Part A, table A-VI/4-1.</p> <p>E. The certificate confirming successful completion of refresher training for competencies in medical care on board ship, as specified in STCW Code Part A, table A-VI/4-2.</p> <p>F. GMDSS-General Operator Certificate (GOC).</p> <p>G. GMDSS-Restricted Operator Certificate (ROC).</p> <p>H. Seafarer medical fitness certificate.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificates listed in this table must be issued with a validity period not exceeding five years. • Certificates listed in this table must have at least six months remaining validity to be eligible for the COC revalidation process. • MPA may accept certificates issued by or on behalf of administrations that have established STCW certificate recognition arrangements with Singapore (refer to relevant shipping circular for specific details). • Please refer to the relevant shipping circular for Seafarer medical fitness certificate requirements 	

REQUIREMENTS FOR REVALIDATION OF MARINE ENGINEER OFFICER AND ELECTRO TECHNICAL OFFICER CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY (COC) ISSUED BY SINGAPORE

Professional competence

Continued professional competence for revalidation of Singapore issued Marine Engineer Officer and Electro Technical Officer COCs shall be established by:

- a. approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
 - i) twelve months in total during the preceding five years, or
 - ii) three months in total during the preceding six months immediately prior to revalidating; or
- b. having performed duties deemed equivalent to seagoing service for a minimum of thirty months within the five years preceding the revalidation application. Occupations considered to provide essential updates in professional knowledge may include marine surveyor, technical superintendent, lecturer in a marine engineering discipline, an examiner of marine engineer officers and marine repairer, or other related professions that may be assessed on a case-by-case basis; or
- c. passing an approved test(s) by MPA; or
- d. successfully completing an MPA-approved training course(s); or
- e. having completed approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of not less than three months in a supernumerary capacity, or in a lower officer rank than that for which the certificate held is valid immediately prior to taking up the rank for which it is valid.

The refresher and updating courses

The following table provides the list of the certificates required for revalidating Marine Engineer Officer COCs issued by Singapore.

COC classes	Required refresher / updating courses certificates
Marine Engineer officer COC Class 1	A,B,C,D,E
Marine Engineer officer COC Class 2	A,B,C,D,E
Marine Engineer officer COC Class 3	A,B,C,D,E
Marine Engineer officer COC Class 4	A,B,C,D,E
Marine Engineer officer COC Class 5	A,B,C,D,E
Marine Engineer officer COC Class 5 (Special Limit)	A,B,C,D,E
Marine Engineer officer COC Class 4 (Special Limit)	A,B,C,D,E
Electro Technical Officer (ETO) COC	A,B,C,D,E
<p>Legend:</p> <p>A. The certificate confirming successful completion of refresher training for competencies in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats, in accordance with STCW Code Part A, Section A-VI/2.5.</p> <p>B. The certificate confirming successful completion of refresher training for competencies in advanced firefighting, in accordance with STCW Code Part A, Section A-VI/3.5.</p> <p>C. The certificate of completion for revised personal safety and social responsibilities training that includes prevention and response to Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment (SASH), in accordance with IMO Resolution MSC.560(108), or completion of a standalone SASH prevention and response training module.</p> <p>D. The certificate confirming successful completion of refresher training for competencies in providing medical first aid on board ship, as specified in STCW Code Part A, table A-VI/4-1.</p> <p>E. Seafarer medical fitness certificate.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificates listed in this table must be issued with a validity period not exceeding five years. • Certificates listed in this table must have at least six months remaining validity to be eligible for the COC revalidation process. • MPA may accept certificates issued by or on behalf of administrations that have established STCW certificate recognition arrangements with Singapore (refer to relevant shipping circular for specific details). • Please refer to relevant shipping circular for Seafarer medical fitness certificate requirements 	

REQUIREMENTS FOR REVALIDATION OF TANKER ENDORSEMENTS ISSUED BY SINGAPORE

Professional competence

Continued professional competence for revalidation of Singapore issued tanker endorsements shall be established by:

- a. approved seagoing service, performing duties appropriate to the tanker certificate or endorsement held, for a period of at least 3 months in total during the preceding 5 years; or
- b. successfully completing an MPA-approved/recognised relevant training course(s) or courses.

Note:

- *MPA may accept certificates issued by or on behalf of administrations that have established STCW certificate recognition arrangements with Singapore (refer to relevant [shipping circular](#) for specific details).*

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR REVALIDATION OF CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY(COP) ISSUED BY SINGAPORE UNDER THE POLAR CODE

Professional competence

Continued professional competence for revalidation of Singapore issued COP under the Polar Code shall be established by:

- a. approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least two months in total during the preceding five years; or
- b. having performed functions deemed equivalent to seagoing service, which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by MPA; or
- c. passing an MPA-approved/recognised test; or
- d. successfully completing an MPA-approved/recognised training course or courses.

Note:

- *MPA may accept certificates issued by or on behalf of administrations that have established STCW certificate recognition arrangements with Singapore (refer to relevant [shipping circular](#) for specific details).*
- *If accepted, MPA would not issue a separate endorsement for the recognition of COPs that are issued by foreign maritime administrations.*

REQUIREMENTS FOR REVALIDATION OF CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY (COP) ISSUED BY SINGAPORE UNDER THE IGF CODE

Professional competence

Continued professional for revalidation of Singapore issued COP under the IGF Code shall be established by:

- a. approved seagoing service, performing duties appropriate to the IGF COP held, for a period of at least 3 months in total during the preceding 5 years; or
- b. successfully completing an MPA-approved/recognised relevant training course or courses.

Notes:

- *MPA may accept certificates issued by or on behalf of administrations that have established STCW certificate recognition arrangements with Singapore (refer to relevant [shipping circular](#) for specific details).*
- *If accepted, MPA would not issue a separate endorsement for the recognition of COPs that are issued by foreign maritime administrations.*

REQUIREMENTS FOR REVALIDATION OF GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS) GENERAL OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATE (GOC) OR RESTRICTED OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATE (ROC) ISSUED BY SINGAPORE

The holder of GOC or ROC who is serving on board ship at sea or intending to serve on board ship after a period ashore, shall have the certificate revalidated by IMDA or obtain a new certificate if required in order to continue to qualify for sea service as a radio operator. The seafarer medical fitness certificate must be provided during the new or revalidation application. Please refer to relevant [shipping circular](#) for Seafarer medical fitness certificate requirements.

S/N	Scenarios	Criteria	Company Letter and Relevant Job scope	Procedures
1	Revalidation of GOC or ROC within 12 months before its expiry date	Working on board ship for <u>at least 12 months</u> in total during the preceding five (5) years or three (3) months in total during the preceding six (6) months immediately prior to revalidation.		Proceed to submit application to IMDA for revalidation of certificate.
		Working on board ship for <u>less than</u> 12 months or no sea service.	A company letter certifying that the certificate holder has worked for at least 30 months in a relevant maritime industry within the five (5) years preceding the revalidation application.	IMDA will assess based on relevant experience.
			A company letter stating the certificate holder's employment commencement date and role in a relevant maritime industry within the five years preceding	Attend a <u>refresher</u> course for GMDSS GOC at IMDA's appointed training institution.

S/N	Scenarios	Criteria	Company Letter and Relevant Job scope	Procedures
			<p>the revalidation application is required, for IMDA's assessment of the employment duration (where it is <u>less than 30 months</u>).</p> <p>Or no company letter provided.</p>	Attend <u>full</u> GMDSS ROC course at IMDA's appointed training institution. (Refresher not available unless there is demand from the industry and to formulate one with appointed training institution).
2	GOC or ROC expired	Working on board ship for at least a period of 12 months.		IMDA will assess based on relevant experience.
		Working on board ship for <u>less than 12 months</u> or no sea service.	A company letter certifying certificate holder has been working in company for <u>at least 30 months</u> in a relevant maritime industry within the five years preceding the revalidation application.	Attend a <u>refresher</u> course for GMDSS GOC at IMDA's appointed training institution. Attend <u>full</u> GMDSS ROC course at IMDA's appointed training institution. (Refresher not available unless there is demand from the industry and to formulate one with appointed training institution).
		Has no sea service record within the last five years and/or has <u>less than 30 months</u> of relevant maritime industry experience.		Attend a <u>full</u> course for GMDSS GOC or GMDSS ROC at IMDA's appointed training institution.