



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

Merchant Shipping Notice 08 of 2025

File No: 25-27011/1/2021-NT - DGS (C-No/8208)

Date: 12.09.2025

Subject: Guidelines for approval of LSA Service Stations for servicing of Inflatable Life Saving Appliances i.e. Inflatable Life Raft, Inflatable Rescue Boat, Inflatable Life Jacket and Immersion Suits & Procedure for approval of Competent Persons for servicing of such LSA - reg.

Introduction:

1. The International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, (SOLAS Convention) addresses *inter-alia*, matters pertaining to life-saving appliances and arrangements on merchant ships, at Chapter III of the said Convention. In India, the compliance with the said requirements of Safety Convention is addressed by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, Merchant Shipping (Life Saving Appliances) Rules, 1991 and the orders/notices/circulars issued by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), Govt. of India from time to time. The said rules and circulars of DGS mandates that inflatable life rafts, inflatable rescue boats and other such inflatable lifesaving appliances shall be serviced in accordance with the relevant circulars/notice issued by this office and as prescribed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
2. The Regulation 20 of the SOLAS Convention deals with operational readiness, maintenance, and inspections. Sub-para 8 of the said regulation stipulates the international requirements for Servicing of inflatable life rafts, inflatable life jackets, marine evacuation systems, and maintenance and repair of inflated rescue boats. Sub-para 9 of the said regulation stipulates the requirements for periodical servicing of hydro-static release units. Sub-para 11 of the regulation prescribes the requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching appliances and release gears.
3. The importance of servicing of such Life Saving Appliances (LSA) by the Original Equipment Manufacturers or by the agency duly approved by the OEM on a time-bound manner are pertinent. The Directorate had already issued Merchant shipping Notice No. 01 of 2020 dated 06/01/2020 with respect to

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

maintenance, repairs and thorough examination of Lifeboats, rescue boats and its launching appliances in accordance with MSC Resolution 402(96). Similarly, it is mandatory that servicing of inflatable LSAs shall be conducted in accordance with the IMO Assembly Resolution A 761 (18) and the applicable Circular of the DGS. Further, it is essential that the approval process of Life Raft service stations, requirement of servicing of inflatable LSAs shall also be revised based on the principles applicable for Life Boats and its launching appliances. Therefore, the Directorate in consultation with the stakeholders reviewed all the existing Circulars in line with the internationally accepted norms. Accordingly, the revised instructions for servicing inflatable LSAs and approval of LSA service stations as stipulated herein below shall be implemented with effect from the date of issuance of the circular.

Part-I Approval of Service Station for inflatable LSAs:

4. All the LSA Service stations in India must have a valid approval from the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) for performing servicing of inflatable LSAs in accordance with the SOLAS and the IMO Assembly Resolution A.761 (18). Only the DGS approved service stations are permitted to carry out periodical servicing of LSAs from any Indian ships or foreign ships while in Indian waters. Such service station should meet the applicable IMO guidelines, have a quality standards system, be registered with the local statutory authorities and have competent person for servicing the inflatable lifesaving appliances. Such Competent person/persons shall be responsible for activities related to servicing of inflatable LSA in that servicing station.

4.1 The LSA service station and the competent person shall be issued with the necessary certificate of approval valid for a period of 5 years with an intermediate verification between 2nd and 3rd anniversary dates. A new company intends to set up a service station for inflatable LSAs may submit the application to the Nautical Wing of the DGS. Onus of making application for Initial/Renewal/Intermediate verification is solely on the service station. The jurisdictional Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) shall carry out the Initial/Intermediate/Renewal verification audit of the service stations.

4.2 Certificate of approval of LSA service station (Initial and Renewal) shall be issued by the Directorate based on the recommendation of the Principal Officer of the concerned Mercantile Marine Department (MMD). This process ensures that the servicing of all the safety equipment meets the required standards and regulations as per IMO & DGS Circulars.

4.3 The approved service station and the competent persons shall route their submission through the Directorate General of Shipping for the renewal of stated certification confirming continued compliance with the applicable IMO and DGS Circular.

4.4 The Competent Person shall be attached to a particular Service Station, duly approved by this Directorate and Name of the competent person shall reflect on the concerned Service Station Approval, issued by the Directorate.



Authorization for Servicing of Inflatable LSAs by the Service Stations:

5. Considering the fact that different make of LSAs are being used on the ships, increasing number of ports on the Indian Coast, the availability of OEM authorized service stations and to meet the time bound requirements of the shipping industry, it has been decided that following principles shall be complied with while carrying out the repair and servicing of various makes of the lifesaving appliances. Henceforth, the servicing of LSAs shall be carried at service station as under;

5.1 DGS approved service Stations established by the OEM or duly approved by the concerned Manufacturer of the make and model of the LSA and having appropriately trained, qualified, OEM authorized and certified Service Personnel shall carry out the servicing of LSA in an Indian port where the vessel has offloaded the equipment's. The servicing shall be carried out in accordance with the prescribed procedures / manual of the OEM and consuming spares of the OEM and/or spares as approved by the OEM. The Competent Person of the Service Station shall issue the Servicing Certificate with a validity of 12 months in normal course, specifying the OEM Approval Number and validity on the Certificate under the self-certification scheme. Such Certificate must accompany a copy of a valid OEM Approval at the time of issuance of such certificate.

5.2 In case the OEM Approved Service Station is not available in the Port, where the LSA has been offloaded by the vessel, the Servicing can be carried out at an OEM Approved Service station at the adjacent Port within the State.

5.3 In the event that the manufacturers (OEM) or OEM authorized and approved service station is not available in the port and/or in the adjacent port, then other Service Stations, not approved by the OEM but duly approved by this Directorate may carry out the servicing of LSA at the Port, where the LSA has been offloaded by the Vessel, provided that such Service Station possesses OEM Spares and consumables and having the OEM service manuals. Such service must be witnessed by the Local MMD Surveyor or by a Surveyor of Recognized Organization IRS and the Certificates must be endorsed by the visiting Surveyor of Local MMD or IRS to ensure compliance with applicable standards. However, an intimation to such effect to be filed before the Local MMD for such servicing activities by the Non-OEM approved Service Station. It is clarified that no prior approval is required for servicing by the Non-OEM approved service station under this para, other than the intimation to the Jurisdictional MMD.

5.4 In case of passenger Vessels, the Servicing of LSA must be witnessed by the Local MMD surveyor and Service Certificate must be endorsed by the attending MMD Surveyor.

6. The servicing of inflatable LSAs in India for all the ships calling and operating in Indian ports by any entity other than the DGS approved LSA service station shall be prohibited.



7. All the DGS approved LSA service stations must maintain Quality Standards System. In accordance with the Quality Standards System, every approved 'LSA' servicing station shall maintain records of servicing and submit the Quarterly statement of activities to the concerned MMD and to the Directorate. The record shall be updated at the intervals not exceeding one week in case of updating of records in the online portal of DGS, which is being launched shortly.

8. All expired pyrotechnics must be disposed in accordance with the guideline under NT Circular 01 of 2015 dated 18.05.2015. Necessary records shall be maintained for the use and disposal of pyrotechnics. Similarly, the service station shall maintain an accurate record of all the consumables such as drinking water, food rations, first aid kit etc. which are being replaced/renewed at the time of servicing of LSAs. In case of replacement of any such items, the service station shall handover the full details such as invoice, type approval/OEM certificate of the consumables to the shipowner/manager for record. Use of such consumable items and the pyrotechnics from the ship recycling yards is prohibited. These aspects shall be verified by the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) during the inspection of the service station.

9. All service stations repairing, maintaining, and servicing Life Saving Appliances must have CCTV coverage of the premises and record the entire servicing process, including the handing over of items such as CO₂ cylinder membranes for refilling. A copy of the recording must be provided to the ship's master, and the service station must retain the recordings for a minimum period of three years. These recordings should be made available for inspection whenever required. Service stations that fail to maintain identifiable records linked to the respective appliances and their serial numbers will be suspended without notice.

10. In case of any breach of above instructions or an adverse report about the approval of competent person, service station, the approval of the service station and of competent person may be withdrawn or suspended and such action may invite penal provision in accordance with the provisions under the M.S Act 1958.

Part-2: Procedure for approval of Competent Persons for servicing of Inflatable Life Saving Equipment's i.e. Inflatable Life Raft, Inflatable Rescue Boat, Inflatable Life Jacket and Immersion Suits – reg.

11. The SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) Convention, Chapter III focuses on life-saving appliances and arrangements. It mandates that all life-saving equipment be maintained and serviced by qualified personnel, implicitly encompassing the concept of Competent Persons. This ensures that those responsible for the upkeep and functioning of safety equipment possess the necessary training and expertise to perform their duties effectively, thereby enhancing the overall safety and preparedness of vessels at sea. Compliance with these requirements is crucial for safeguarding the lives of crew and passengers in maritime operations.

12. Additionally, MSC.1/Circ.1277 provides guidelines on the training and certification of personnel responsible for the maintenance and servicing of lifeboats and other lifesaving appliances, emphasizing the



need for competence in these critical roles.

13. Therefore, the inflatable LSAs shall be serviced in India only by the Competent Persons certified by the DGS. Such certified competent persons can be attached to any one Service Station approved by the DGS. The application for approval of "Competent Persons", to be submitted by any DGS approved LSA Service Station directly to DG Shipping along with the Bharatkosh fee receipt as applicable. Upon verification of basic eligibility criteria of the applicant, the Directorate will forward the application to Jurisdictional MMD for assessment of competency of the applicant. The format of application and the instructions are given in Annexure A.

14. The approval procedure for Competent Persons shall be solely managed by the jurisdictional Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) and will include both an online or offline written examination and a practical examination/demonstration of competencies pertaining to servicing of inflatable LSAs.

15. A standardized Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) test, along with subjective type questions will be implemented for the Competent Person examination. It will be followed by the evaluation of practical skills in servicing of inflatable LSAs of the applicant at the service station.

16. The approval of the Competent Person shall be issued by the Directorate based on the recommendation of the concerned MMD. This process ensures that all required standards and regulations as per the SOLAS/IMO Guidelines are met.

17. DG Shipping shall exercise their authority to make necessary amendments to the Approval of Service Station for Inflatable Life Raft, Inflatable Rescue Boat, Inflatable Life Jacket and Immersion Suits regarding the addition and deletion of Competent Persons. The name of a Competent person should not be included in more than one LSA service station.

18. The minimum criteria of educational qualification and experience as prescribed in the following table shall please be followed for considering a Competent Person of Inflatable Life Saving Equipment.

Sl. No.	Qualification	Experience	OEM Training
1	Possess a Bachelor's Degree in any Engineering stream or related field from any institution recognized by the State / Central Govt. Or Qualified in Marine Engineering Stream (2nd	Minimum 6 months Experience in attending Servicing - Testing - Repair & re Certification of Inflatable Life Rafts & Rescue Boats in DG Shipping Approved Service Station along-with a DGS Approved Competent	The candidate must possess Training and certification from a min of three numbers of OEM recognized by the Directorate from different countries. Note: Approval from two

	Engg or MEO Class 1) or Master Mariner / Chief Officer COC issued by DGS or equivalent.	Person. Should have serviced minimum of 50 Life rafts and 2 rescue boats during the training period.	different OEM from same country will not be accepted.
2	Possess a B.Sc (Bachelor of Science) Degree in any stream from any Institution, recognized by the State / Central Govt OR Possess a Diploma in any Engineering stream from any Institution, recognized by the State / Central Govt.	Minimum 1 Year Experience in Assisting a Competent Person in Servicing - Testing - Repair & re Certification of Inflatable Life Rafts & Rescue Boats in DG Shipping Approved Service Station. Should have serviced minimum of 100 Life rafts and 4 Rescue boats during the training period.	The candidate must possess Training and certification from a min of three numbers of OEM recognized by the Directorate from different countries. Note: Approval from two different OEM from same country will not be accepted.
3	Graduate in Science from any Institution, recognized by the State / Central Govt. Or Passed ITI trade certificate by any Institution, recognized by the State / Central Govt.	Minimum 3 Years Experience in Assisting a Competent Person in Annual Servicing - Testing - Repair & re Certification of Inflatable Life Rafts & Rescue Boats in DG Shipping Approved Service Station. Should have serviced minimum of 150 Life rafts and 6 rescue boats during the training period.	The candidate must possess Training and certification from a min of three numbers of OEM recognized by the Directorate from different countries. Note: Approval from two different OEM from same country will not be accepted

19. Any Competent Person, already approved by the DG Shipping will continue to be recognized and will not be required to meet the above criteria. However, the approval of existing Competent person would require to be Re Validated by the Directorate based on confirmation of his physical presence and activity in the attached Service Station, by the jurisdictional MMD, against submission of a Declaration by the Management of Approved Service Station.

20. Internal transfers of Competent Persons within the same company across various branches shall be approved by the DGS. Similarly, transfers from one company to another will fall under the responsibility of the DGS. In such cases, proper proof of resignation and job handover documentation must be submitted to the Directorate for deletion of name in the Certificate of approval of the present employer and the endorsement of name in the certificate of approval of another service station.

21. A Competent Person certification issued by the DGS for Inflatable Life Saving Equipment will remain valid for the service station to which he is attached, provided the respective service station hold the valid OEM approval.

22. Notwithstanding anything contained above, all existing contracts for the servicing of inflatable LSAs that were executed on or before the date of issuance of this Circular may continue to be performed in accordance with the guidelines that were in force prior to the issuance of this Circular. DGS-approved service stations operating under such contracts and availing exemptions from the revised guidelines may submit the relevant details to the jurisdictional MMD/DGS within thirty (30) days from the date of issuance of this Circular for information and record.

23. This Circular supersedes NT Wing/Miscellaneous Circular No. 02 of 2014 dated 04.03.2014, NT Circular No. NT/LSA/01/2016 dated 19.02.2016, Merchant Shipping Notice No. 13 of 2016 dated 25.11.2016, and Merchant Shipping Notice No. 09 of 2021 dated 25.11.2021 on the above subject.

24. This is issued with the approval of Director General of Shipping.

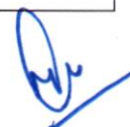
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nitin Mukesh', with the date '12.09.25' written below it.

(Capt. Nitin Mukesh)
Deputy Nautical Adviser -cum-Sr. DDG (Tech)

APPLICATION FORM FOR APPROVAL OF COMPETENT PERSONS

(Should be submitted in a company letter head)

Form: CP/001		APPLICATION NO. :
1. NAME OF THE CANDIDATE		
2. DATE OF BIRTH		
3. NAME OF THE COMPANY		
4. NAME OF THE COMPETENT PERSON		
5. ADDRESS OF THE COMPANY		
6. TELEPHONE NO.		
7. FAX NO.		
8. EMAIL ID		
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION		
9. BASIC EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION a) Bachelors Degree in any Engineering or Marine qualifications b) B.Sc (Bachelor of Science) or Diploma in Engineering in any stream		
10. TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION APPROVED BY OEM (Must be authorized by at least three manufacturers from different countries) Note: Approval from two different OEM from same country will not be accepted		
11. EXPERIENCE:		
11 (A) Years of Experience at the Service Station (a) Minimum 6 Months (b) Minimum 1 Years (c) Minimum 3 Years <u>"As applicable"</u>		
11 (B) Experience in servicing of Life Rafts and rescue boats. A) (Minimum of 50 life rafts and 2 rescue boats) B) (Minimum of 100 Life rafts and 4 rescue boats)		A/B/C (tick which is applicable)



C) (Minimum of 150 Life rafts and 6 rescue boats)	
12. RECOMMENDATION BY INCHARGE OF THE SERVICE STATION:	
ATTACH RELEVANT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS SIGNATURE OF THE CANDIDATE
FEE PAID: RS -----	
TRANSACTION REF. NO..... DATE.....	
MODE: PAYMENT THROUGH BHARATKOSH	
DATED: -----	PLACE: -----
DECLARATION BY THE COMPANY / MANAGER	
I hereby solemnly declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the particulars given in the form are true & correct. In case of any fraudulent information, Criminal proceedings may be initiated against me / Company / Manager as per the Indian penal code. I have been authorized by the Owner / Manager to make this application. A prescribed fee of Rs. _____ in your favour is enclosed. I request you to grant the Approval as "Competent Person" in respect of applicant mentioned at Point No.1.	
DATE:	NAME:
PLACE: SIGNATURE OF SERVICE STATION IN CHARGE

Instructions:

Following documents to be submitted to prove the minimum criteria of the applicant as competent person

1. Application by the company in a letter head with fee receipt
2. Biodata of the proposed competent person
3. Copy of basic educational qualification
4. Copy of technical qualification i.e. authorisation and training record from three different OEMs. (Approval from two different OEM from same country will not be accepted)
5. Experience Certificate Issued by the DG Shipping-approved service station. It must include
 - a) Duration of experience (start and end date);
 - b) Type of equipment handled (life rafts, rescue boats)
 - c) Confirmation of supervision by a DGS-approved Competent Person.
 - d) Number of life rafts serviced
6. Training Logbook / Work Record Sheet: Detailed entries for each life raft/rescue boat serviced. Which should include Date of servicing, Equipment details (make, capacity, serial number), Nature of work done (inspection, testing, repacking, etc.), Signature of the supervising Competent Person.