

Maritime Grading

CARE's Maritime Training Institute (MTI) gradings are an opinion on the relative quality of the course conducted by the MTI to achieve the objectives of the course as specified either by the Standards of Training Certification and Watch keeping (STCW) convention or the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) of India's guidelines.

The analytical framework of CARE's grading methodology is divided into two interdependent segments: the first captures the overall strengths of the institute while the second deals with the specific course being graded. The eight broad parameters used in the grading methodology are

listed
below:

Sr. No.	Criteria
1	Infrastructure facility
2	Course equipment
3	Faculty assessment
4	Teaching methodology and feedback
5	Student quality and assessment
6	Financial strength
7	Management quality/strength
8	Sustainability

While parameters like course equipment, faculty assessment, teaching methodology and student quality help in assessing the specific course, the institute is assessed through parameters like financial strength, management quality and sustainability. Infrastructure facility is used for assessing both, the course and the institute. CARE assigns a weight and a score to these parameters and their sub parameters which are assigned on the basis of standards developed by

CARE which inter-alia test the degree of compliance with standards set by DGS as well as relevant international bodies. The standards are so designed that the highest scores are assigned only in cases where the minimum requirement of STCW or DGS guidelines are exceeded in a significant manner. The products of score and weight for different criteria are summed up to arrive at the grading for a course.

As the grading assigned by CARE is an opinion on the relative quality of the course conducted by the MTI to achieve the objectives of the course, a higher weightage is assigned to the course specific parameters. However, recognizing the importance of quality of management and financial strength, in not only sustaining operations but also in improving the same, CARE assigns a significant weightage to the institute-specific parameters as well.

The importance of course-dependent parameters may be different for different courses as adequacy of equipment may be important for a 'Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting course', although it may have little relevance in a 'Personal Safety & Social Responsibility course'. Another example is the isolated location of the MTI, which may be considered advantageous for a three-month Pre-sea course, which is residential, while it may be treated as a drawback for a five-day course.

The same is applicable for the institute-specific parameters as well, where factors such as ownership may be very important in some cases (such as Government or large shipping company owned institutes) while for others Financial Strength may be the most important criterion.

The inter se allocation of weightage among the parameters making up the two groups

is, therefore, left to the professional judgment of the grading team and the Grading Committee.

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