



COUNCIL FOR THE INDIAN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

PRAGATI HOUSE, 3rd FLOOR, 47-48, NEHRU PLACE, NEW DELHI - 110 505.

TELEPHONES: 29564831, 29564833, 26413820 E-MAIL: ces@cisce.org

FAX: 91-11-29564735, 26234575

Chief Executive & Secretary

GERRY ARATHOON

M.A., B.Ed.

CIRCULAR

A Circular dated 24.02.2016 was published by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi on its website clarifying the baseless confusion and falsehood spread by certain persons about the status of the Council. The said Circular was issued by the Council in the larger interest of all stake holders including parents, students, teachers and managements of all affiliated schools. However, unfortunately, notwithstanding the fact that the said Circular dated 24.02.2016 had clearly and categorically explained the status of the Council, certain persons have once again resorted to false propaganda against the Council thereby intending to destroy its reputation, credibility and also cause serious prejudice to its smooth functioning.

In the aforesaid context, therefore, it has become imperative for the Council to elaborate further upon the earlier Circular dated 24.02.2016.

Much confusion is sought to be created by certain persons through emails and website on the basis of a letter dated 20.01.2016 issued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Dept of School Education & Literacy, Govt. of India in response to some RTI query. The contents of the said letter have been torn out of context to convey an impression that the Council has not been recognized by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. Therefore, for better appreciation of all concerned, the contents of the said letter dated 20.01.2016 are reproduced herein below:-

"I am directed to refer to your RTI application dated 07.01.2016, received online vide registration No. PMOIN/R/2016/50056, forwarded by Prime Minister's Office vide letter No. RTI/303/2016 – PMR dated 13.01.2016, seeking information relating to recognition of Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE).

In this regard, it is informed that the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has two education boards i.e. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).

*Education being in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, Education Boards are also set up by an Act of the State Legislature or an executive order issued by concerned State Government. **This ministry does not give***



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***recognition to any Education Board** and hence the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) also has neither been set up nor recognized by this Ministry.”*

A bare perusal of the aforesaid contents of the letter dated 20.01.2016 underlines only the fact that the Council has not been set up or is being controlled by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India being a non-government board. The said letter in the most unequivocal terms states that the Ministry of Human Resource Development does not give recognition to any Education Board, in as much as, the grant of recognition to education boards is not within their jurisdiction. As a necessary corollary therefore, the letter holds that since the Ministry of Human Resource Development has no jurisdiction in the matter of granting recognition to any Board, hence they have not recognized the Council. The letter goes further to explain that education is a matter which falls in the Concurrent list of the Constitution, and the State Government/s through either any State enactment or an executive order are legally competent to set up an education board. It is a matter of record that public examinations conducted by the Council have been recognized under the Delhi School Education Act, 1973 by way of Section 2 (s) of the Act and this legal position has been accepted by the Courts of law as sufficient to grant legitimacy to the functioning of the Council.

Additionally, the syllabus of the Council and the Certificates issued by it have been recognized and granted equivalence by Central/State Governments and Education Boards/Universities which have been set up under various State enactments and executive orders. Even COBSE (Council of Boards of School Education) which is accepted to be an expert body set up to co-ordinate the functioning of various Board/s of the country has admitted the Council to be one of its members after due verification and upon satisfaction of its legal existence.

In the context it is further clarified that the Class X ICSE Examination of the Council has been expressly recognized by the Government of India. In its Office Memorandum No. 6/9/69-Esstt. (D) dated 03.08.1974 the Government of India has gone on record to hold as under:-

“The undersigned is directed to say that it has been decided, in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission, to recognize Indian Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (Class X Examination) conducted by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations as equivalent to Matriculation Examination for the purpose of employment under the Central Government provided it is passed in five



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subjects which should include Mathematics, Science and at least two languages. The fifth subject could be any of the remaining subjects in Group I (Indian History & Culture including Civics) and Geography or any of the subjects in Group II (Art, Woodwork or Metalwork with technical Drawing, Elements of Home Science, Elements of Accounts and Shorthand and Typewriting with the office practice)''

Even the CBSE vide letter No. Genl F/118/42232 dated 31.12.1976 has expressly recognized the Class X ICSE Examination conducted by the Council by stating as under:-

"I am to inform you that the Board has recognized the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education Examination of the Council as equivalent to Board's All-India Secondary School Examination/Secondary School Examination provided a candidate has passed in least five subjects of External Examination."

Additionally, the Association of India Universities (AIU), the Andhra Pradesh Government, Government of Bihar, Osmania University, Kakatiya University, A.P. Board of Intermediate Education, Guwahati University, Assam, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Dibrugarh University, Assam, Ranchi University, Ranchi, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya, Maharaja Sayaji Rao University, Baroda, H.P. Board of School Education, Shimla, Kurukshekra University, Board of School Education, Haryana, Chandigarh, University of Jammu, Bangalore University, Govt. of Mysore Pre University Education, Calicut University, Kerala, University of Kerala, Marathwada University, Aurangabad, Maharashtra State Board of Secondary Education, Berhampur University, Orissa, Sambalpur University, Orissa, Utkal University, Orissa, Board of Secondary Education Orissa, Punjab University, Chandigarh, Panjabi University, Patiala, Guru Nanak University, Amritsar, Rajasthan University, Rajasthan Board of Intermediate Education, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, University of Madras, University of Madurai, Banaras Hindu University, Board of High School & Intermediate Education, U.P., Calcutta University, University of Burdwan, University of North Bengal etc.. have also expressly gone on record by recognizing the ICSE Class X Examination conducted by the Council. The aforesaid list is only illustrative and not exhaustive in as much as many subsequent Universities/ Boards have also recognized the Class X ICSE Examination conducted by the Council.

Similarly, as regards the ISC Class XII examination conducted by the Council, the Government of India vide its O.M. No. 14021/7/75/Estt. Dated 28.4.1978 has gone on record and granted equivalence to the ISC Class XII Examination of the Council with the



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Higher Secondary Certificate in the academic as well as vocational education. The relevant extract of the said OM is reproduced herein below:

Copy of office Memorandum No. 14021/7/75-Estt. D. Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs. New Delhi, the 28th April 1978

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:- Recognition of general Academic/Non-technical Qualifications for the purpose of recruitment under the Central Government with reference to the revised pattern of education (10+2+3).

"In supersession of this Department's O.M. No. 14120/7/75 Estt. D. dated 19.2.1977, the undersigned is directed to say that on the recommendation of the Board of Assessment for Educational Qualifications, constituted by Government of India, Ministry of Education, It has been decided to prescribe the Educational Qualifications in the revised pattern of Education (10+2+3) vis-à-vis the qualification in the existing system of educational as follows:-

*Qualifications in the
existing pattern
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
IV...../Indian School
Certificate
(12-year) Exam.*

*Equivalence under
the revised pattern
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Higher Secondary
Certificate in Academic
as well as vocational
Education (12-years)
or equivalent"*

Additionally, the Association of India Universities, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, Agra University, Allahabad University, Annamali University, Aligarh University, Banaras Hindu University, Bangalore University, Baroda University, Berhampur University, Bihar University, Bhopal University, Bundhalkhand University, Bombay University, Burdwan University, Calcutta University, Delhi University, Garhwal University, Guwahati University, Gujrat University, Gorakhpur University, South Gujrat University, Indore University, Jabalpur University, Jadhavpur University, Jodhpur University, Kanpur University, Karnataka University, Kashmir University, Sher e Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Kerala University, Kumaon University, Kurukshetra University, Lucknow University, University of London, Madras



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University, Marathwada University, Madurai Kamraj University, Maharishi Dayanand University, Meerut University, Mysore University, Nagpur University, North Bengal University, Punjabi University, Punjab University, Patna University, Poona University, Rajasthan University, Ranchi University, Ravi Shankar University, Raipur University, Rohilla Khand University, Roorkee University, Sambhalpur University, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Tribhuvan University, Nepal, Udaipur University, Shri Venteshwara University, Tirupati, A.P. Board of Intermediate Education, Board of High School & Intermediate Education, U.P. Assam Board of Secondary Education, Board of Secondary Education, M.P., Institute of Chartered Accountants of India have recognized the Class-XII Examination conducted by the Council. Most importantly, the Government of India, Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs vide Notification No. SRO/2118 dated 19.9.1959 has also recognized the ISC Class XII Examination conducted by the Council as equivalent to the Intermediate Examination of a University. The said SRO No. 2118 dated 19.9.1959 is reproduced hereinbelow:-

“S.R.O. No. 2118 - In pursuance of Clause (b) of Regulation 20 of the Cost and Works Accountants Regulation, 1959, the Central Government is pleased to recognize the following examination as equivalent to the Intermediate Examination of a University as defined in Clause (b) of regulation 2 of the said Regulations, namely:-

“38. Indian School Certificate Examination (12 years), conducted by Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi.”

It is reiterated at the cost of repetition that the aforesaid list is only illustrative and not exhaustive.

In such circumstances there is absolutely no manner of doubt that the existence and continuance of the Council has the backing of the authority of law and the examinations conducted by the Council have received recognition and/or equivalence from the Central/State Boards & Universities of the Country as well as from abroad. The aforesaid legal and factual position has further been accepted and recognized by various Courts of law of the country. For example, the Punjab & Haryana High Court in several writ petition/s and Appeal/s has held *“that CBSE & CISCE stand recognized and thus find mention in the list posted on the website of the Union of India’s list of all recognized Boards and this is so because they have been listed as bodies conducting public examinations in Delhi School Education Act, 1973 and therefore, have statutory backing and for this reason would stand on a different footing”*



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Similarly, in keeping with the aforesaid legal status of the Council the High Court of Orissa has set aside a decision of the Board of Secondary Education, Orissa to deny equivalence to the Certificate/Mark sheets of the Council. The aforesaid findings/ observations/ conclusions of the Constitutional courts of the country are available in the public domain.

Under the aforesaid circumstances it is beyond any iota of doubt that the misinformation and false propaganda resorted to by certain persons is baseless, mischievous, motivated and should not be given any credence or acceptability. Once again the Council assures all its stake holders that they should not entertain any doubt or misgiving about the legal status and authority of the Council to continue as a premier affiliating and examining Board of the country.

Gerry Arathoon -
Chief Executive & Secretary

Date : 06.04.2016



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CIRCULAR

It has been noticed that certain news items have been published in the media and emails have been received by the affiliated schools attempting to question the legal authority and credibility of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations to conduct Public Examinations. Such news items and emails have generated unnecessary and uncalled for concerns and mis-apprehensions in the minds of the managements of the affiliated schools, parents, teachers and students etc. Therefore, the Council feels it imperative to inform all concerned that the Council is one of the three recognized National Examination Boards of the country and the public examinations conducted by the Council have the authority and legal sanctity of Parliament in terms of Section 2(s) of the Delhi School Education Act, 1973. The certificates awarded by the Council have been recognized and accepted nationally and internationally by the Colleges, Universities and other educational institutions. The Council has been functioning smoothly ever since its inception, having more than 2000 affiliated schools in India and abroad at present.

The Council as the successor of the Cambridge Syndicate for Local Examinations has always maintained very high academic standards and several eminent personalities of the country from various walks of life have studied in the schools affiliated to the Council and appeared in its examinations. It appears that at the behest of certain vested interests, factually incorrect and distorted information has been projected out of context to create an impression as if the functioning of the Council and the public examinations conducted by it are without authority of law.

It is a matter of record that the Ministry of HRD, Government of India has always acknowledged the Council to be a premier National Examination Board and has never questioned its authority to conduct public examinations, as alleged in the news items and emails. As a matter of fact there are two members nominated by the Government of India, a representative of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and nominees/representatives from all States of the country, where there are Council affiliated schools, apart from other members in the General Body of the Council. Ever since its inception, there has always been a constant and meaningful interaction between all such members and the Council.



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Additionally, it is a matter of record that the Indian School Certificate Examination (Class-XII) has been recognized by the Government of India/ State Governments by declaring it as equivalent to the Higher Secondary Certificate Examination conducted by all other examination boards in the country. Similarly, the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (Class-X Examination) conducted by the Council has been recognized by the Government of India, State Governments and the State Education Boards. All Colleges and Universities across the country and abroad have recognized and continue to recognize the certificates of the ICSE & ISC examinations conducted by the Council.

In the above background, by way of this circular, the Council would like to re-assure all stake holders including parents, students, teachers and management of its affiliated schools that they should not entertain any doubt or misgiving caused by such irresponsible and distorted news items and emails.


(Gerry Arathoon) -
Chief Executive & Secretary

Date: 24.02.2016