

MSS

Code of Practice

Merchant Shipping Secretariat

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Chapter – IV

Radiocommunication & Radio Operators

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Section A-IV/2

1.0 Mandatory minimum requirements for certification of GMDSS radio operators

Every candidate for Endorsement under the Convention of certificates issued under the provisions of Radio Regulations shall be required to provide evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence in accordance with the methods for demonstrating competence and the criteria for evaluating competence tabulated in table A-IV/2 of the Code.

1.1 Eligibility criteria

- a) Be not less than 18 years at the time of commencement of the training programme.
- b) Proof of identity¹;
- c) Shall have a valid medical certificate issued in accordance with provisions of STCW Reg. I/9 and Section A-I/9.
- d) Hold a GMDSS General Radio Operator's certificate or Restricted Operator's Certificate issued by the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) of Sri Lanka or any other authority approved by the DGMS².

1.2 Eligibility criteria for the preparatory course

- a) Be not less than 18 years at the time of commencement of the training programme.
- a) Proof of identity³;

¹ A birth certificate or a passport or a National Seafarer's Identity Document can be accepted as proof of identity

² DGMS currently accepts GMDSS certificates issued by MCA approved countries.

³ A birth certificate or a passport or a National Seafarer's Identity Document can be accepted as proof of identity

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- e) Shall have a valid medical certificate issued in accordance with provisions of STCW Reg. I/9 and Section A-I/9.
- d) Shall hold a Certificate of Competency or currently undergoing an approved training programme leading to a Certificate of Competency; or
- e) Be a member of profession which requires GMDSS GOC or ROC .
- f) Above d) has to be certified by the Employer and approval has to be obtained prior commencement of the course from TRC and DGMS respectively.
- g) If the participant mentioned in d) is a self employee he/she shall forward documentary evidence to the satisfaction of Training Institute, TRC and DGMS to obtain necessary approvals.
- h) It is the responsibility of the individual participant to obtain the necessary approvals before enrolling for the course.
- i) Copy of CoC or confirming letter from an approved training institute that the participant is a student of approved training programme which leads to a CoC or Letter of Eligibility issued by DGMS or a copy of the Approval Letter; in the case of above 1.2 d) shall be submitted to the respective approved training institute.

1.3 Course, examinations and assessments process

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- a) The training programmes/ courses shall be conducted by TRC or any training institute delegated by TRC. But such programmes/ courses conducted by TRC or Training Institutes which lead to issuance of certification under Radio Regulations shall require to be approved by the DGMS for the issuance of Endorsement under STCW Ch.IV/2
- b) The course duration shall not be less than 11 days (66.0 Hrs) in the case of GOC and not less than 5 days (32.5 Hrs) for the ROC.
- c) The courses' contents and the durations, to achieve the minimum standards of competence shall be as per the DGMS approved core syllabi for GOC and ROC programmes.

The training programmes shall comply with STCW Reg.IV/2, Sec A-IV/2 and guidance given in Sec.B-IV/2 Para 29-44

- d) For both GOC & ROC Examinations and Assessments are as follows,

Subjects	Type of examination	Duration (hrs)	Pass marks
Radio Regulation & Procedures	Written	0.50	75%
Practical operation of Equipments	Practical	90 min	70%
RT Watch keeping & On scene Communication	Practical	30 min	75%

- d) Seafarers shall have 100% of class room attendance to be eligible to sit for the final examination.

1.4 Validity Period of the Endorsement

Validity shall be 05 years from the date of issue of the TRC GMDSS Certificate.

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1.5 Revalidation of Endorsement

Endorsement shall be revalidated upon producing the following documentary evidence (originals) to the relevant examiner;

- a) Completed application form
- b) Current Endorsement
- c) Two passport photographs
- d) Sea service testimonials⁴ to cover
 - i. twelve months in total during the preceding 5 years,
or
 - ii. three months in total during the preceding six months immediately prior to revalidating;
or
 - iii. 2.5 years of shore base experience which considered adequate to maintain the standard of competency mentioned in Table A-IV/2 as acceptable to relevant examiner. Document proof shall be submitted.
- e) Fee as per the fees regulations
- f) Valid medical certificate issued by approved medical practitioner in DGMS approved format.
- g) Refresh & Updating training if the seafarer has not fulfilled above 1.5 d)

1.6 Refresher and Updating Training in GMDSS.

If the seafarer has not fulfilled the sea time criteria as mentioned in 1.5 d) above shall undergo refresh and updating training in GMDSS training and appear for 1.3 d) examination process.

⁴ Sea service must be supported by either; discharge book entries or sea service testimonials or certificate of discharge. Testimonials must be signed by the master, chief engineer or another responsible company representative.