

Scope

This course covers the training recommended in annex 3 to IMO Assembly resolution A.703(17) Recommendation on Training of Radio Operators related to the General Operator's Certificate (GOC).

Objective

A trainee successfully completing this course and passing the prescribed examination will be enabled to efficiently operate the GMDSS equipment, and to have primary responsibility for radiocommunications during distress incidents. Given the severe problems being experienced in the GMDSS as a result of the large number of false distress alerts that now occur, training will also be provided in techniques to avoid the unintentional transmission of false distress alerts and the procedures to use in order to mitigate the effects of false distress alerts following unintentional transmission.

Entry standards

This course framework assumes little knowledge of maritime radiocommunication practice, but a working knowledge of English as a second language. Elementary computer skills are assumed in the recommended course timetable. Additional training will be needed for those lacking basic proficiency in the use of computers.

Course Outline

Learning Objectives	Hours
1. INTRODUCTION a. The course	1.5
2. Principles of maritime radiocommunications a. Principles and basic features of the maritime mobile service b. Principles and basic features of the maritime mobile-satellite service c. Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)	20.5
3. GMDSS communication systems a. Purpose and use of Digital Selective Calling (DSC) facilities b. General principles of Narrow-Band Direct Printing (NBDP) c. Knowledge and use of Inmarsat systems d. Knowledge and practical use of ship station equipment e. Fault location and rectification on marine electronic equipment	34.5
4. Other GMDSS equipment a. Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) b. Search and Rescue Radar Transponder (SART) c. Maritime Safety Information (MSI) services	4.5
5. Distress alerting a. Search and Rescue (SAR) operation b. GMDSS terrestrial Distress, Urgency and Safety communication procedures c. GMDSS satellite Distress, Urgency and Safety communication procedures d. Protection of distress frequencies	8.0
6. Miscellaneous skills and operational procedures for general communications a. Ability to use the English language, written and spoken, for the exchange of communication relevant to the safety of life at sea b. Obligatory procedures and practices c. Practical and theoretical knowledge of general communication procedures	8.0
7. Assessment and discussion	3.0
TOTAL	80.0