

Long Range Communications

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Introduction

Beyond the range of VHF, seafarers are very much on their own. HF (SSB) radio or satellite communications (satcoms) provides the long distance yachtsman with the means to call for Help, stay in touch with home, or make arrangements for their next port.

The introduction of the Global Maritime Distress & Safety System (GMDSS) has revolutionised maritime communications. To gain the maximum benefit of GMDSS seafarers require additional equipment and training. The Long Range Certificate (LRC) replaces the Restricted (SSB) Operators certificate and prepares sailors for communications in the GMDSS era.

Who needs the LRC

Leisure and Commercial Vessels under 300 GRT fitted with long range communications (SSB radio). Holders of (SSB) Restricted Operator's Certificates retro-fitting GMDSS equipment .

Licence Requirements

To operate marine radio equipment, International Radio Regulations require all vessels to :-

- Have a valid Ship's Radio Licence.
- Be controlled by an operator holding the appropriate Radio Operator's Certificate of Competence and Authority to Operate (ATO).

Where to get the Ships Licence

From December 2006 the Ships Radio Licence will be issued via the internet Free. But you are reminded that it is an International Requirement that all vessel have ship radio licence and it reflects the current equipment fitted aboard the vessel. See www.ofcom.org.uk/licensing/olc

No Exemptions

The MCA grants no exemption to holding a Marine LRC i.e. for holders of Amateur Radio or Aeronautical certificates.

LRC Operators Certificate

Long Range Certificate & ATO will be issued on successfully passing the MCA examination.

Cost of exam and Operators Certificate currently £95 payable to 'AMERC NAC (GMDSS) at time of examination.

There are no nationality requirements in order to be awarded the LRC Certificate. The qualification is internationally recognised.

Course Guidelines

The basic LRC covers GMDSS operating procedures and the practical operation of: VHF, MF/HF SSB radio, Digital Selective Calling (DSC), NAVTEX, EPIRBs & SARTs.

The basic examination is divided into four parts :-

- ◆ Radio Regulations Paper
- ◆ SOLAS (Distress Urgency etc)
- ◆ Practical Equipment Operation
- ◆ Communications Exercise

Note: There are no written questions on radio theory - Although a little understanding of some aspects is required in order to operate the equipment.

No knowledge of Morse Code required.

Exam Requirements

Examination Requirements.

- ◆ Fluency in the phonetic alphabet .
- ◆ 2 passport photographs.
- ◆ Cheque made out to **AMERC LTD NAC (GMDSS)** for £95. This fee covers the cost of the examination and issue of operators certificate if successful.

Course Plan

LRC 4 Days (Sat/Sun/Mon/Tues).

Clients would benefit from holding a VHF certificate, they should also be prepared for a little evening study. A later departure on the Monday can be expected, the examination is scheduled for Monday p.m.

(0900 Start) Saturday - Introduction, Licensing Requirements, Radio Regulations, SOLAS & Routine communications procedures. Simplex/Duplex operation. VHF operation. Communications exercises with radio simulators.

Sunday - SSB operation, HF propagation, aerials & maintenance. Battery care. The GMDSS system, Digital Selective Calling. NAVTEX, EPIRBs & SARTs Communications exercises and practical use of equipment.

Monday AM : Practical use of equipment, voice exercises, exam revision.

Monday PM : Long Range Certificate examination.

(Should time be at a premium, clients may leave the course after their examination,)

Tuesday : With the LRC examination behind us - A more relaxing day reviewing the Icom 800 series transceiver and reviewing the various satellite systems, their coverage and usage costs.

Obtaining radio weather fax information.

Review of E mail over SSB.

Course Cost

Long Range Certificate Course (4 Days) - £ 325

Examination Fee £ 95

RT Training holds regular 4 day courses from our classroom on the River Hamble

Satellite Operations

Most satellite systems favoured by Blue-Water cruisers e.g. Iridium, Mini-M, Fleet 33, Thuraya, Globalstar are no more difficult to operate than a mobile phone, and there is no requirement for any operator certification.

An optional 1 day Satellite module is available (contact us for details) which will endorse an LRC certificate for Ship Earth Station (SES) operation. This is only relevant for operators of satellite equipment incorporated into the GMDSS system.

Venue & Dates

Location	2009			
SOUTHAMPTON Universal Marina	Jan 17-20	Feb 14-17	Mar 14-17	Apr 18-21
	May 16-19	Jun 20-23	Jul 18-21	Aug 15-18
	Sep 19-22	Oct 17-20	Nov 21-24	Dec 12-15

Recommended Course Book

Recommend course book **GMDSS –A User's Handbook** Price £15-99
Author: D Brehaut Publisher : Adlard Coles Nautical ISBN 0-7136-7856-9
Buy at a discounted price on web site www.marineradio.co.uk/lrc.html

How to Book

Bookings: Return the completed booking form with a cheque made payable to 'RT Training'. Confirmation of booking and directions will be sent - normally by return.

Late Booking: Phone, we will do our best to accommodate you.

Booking Conditions

Course Fees payable in advance. Examination Fees payable by separate cheque to examiner.

Courses are offered subject to : a) There being sufficient numbers. b) A suitable venue
If a course is cancelled, RT Training will endeavour to give a weeks notice. Where a client cancels a course, giving more than a weeks notice, transfer to another course may be possible.
Regret no refunds are possible for courses cancelled within 7 days notice

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