

# GMDSS

## VHF/Short Range Certificate Course

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Classroom : Unit 10. Universal Marina. Sarisbury Green, SO31 7ZN

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### ***Introduction***

Most responsible sailors would not consider venturing out to sea without the security of a marine radio, and the ability to use it effectively.

The Global Maritime Distress & Safety System (GMDSS) now operational from the 1st February 1999, has had a profound effect on maritime communications. In future ships will no longer have a need to keep a listening watch on Channel 16, but an automated system (DSC) will monitor a new distress and calling channel and automatically alert (page) the station when required for Distress or routine working.

GMDSS compatible equipment Has become more widely available for leisure vessels. As from January 2001 all new VHF equipment sold in the UK was required to be GMDSS compatible.

The International Maritime Organisation has directed that Channel 16 watch should be maintained until further notice. However, many national administrations view GMDSS as a way of reducing manpower and after 2005 may only have automatic distress watchkeeping around their shores.

### ***VHF Course is phased out***

From the 1st September 2000, the SRC replaces the VHF Operator's Certificate which is phased out. The SRC is an acceptable radio qualification for candidates on RYA Yachtmaster and Coastal skipper Courses

### ***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 & Authority to Operate (ATO)

### ***Where to get the Ship's Licence***

A Ships Radio Licence is a legal requirement .  
The Ships Radio Licence is now being issued free online and is valid for the life of the vessels (certain conditions apply)

On Line at : [www.ofcom.org.uk/licensing/olc/](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/licensing/olc/)

### ***Recommended Reading***

The VHF **DSC Handbook** by Sue Fletcher Published - Thomas Reed .  
It covers the SRC syllabus in a very comprehensive manner and will be an invaluable reference book after the course

## Course Plan

### SHORT RANGE COURSE

#### 0900 start

The morning covers the practical operation and regulations regarding the standard use of marine VHF.

Channel 16 usage

Channels for Port Operations, Marinas, Inter-ship and routine communications  
Distress, Urgency, & Safety communications. Voice procedures

Voice practice using simulator equipment. - Assessment

1300 Completion of morning session

*1300-1330 Break for lunch, bring something to munch.*

#### 1330 Start

The GMDSS scheme

Equipments used in GMDSS i.e. EPIRBs, SARTS, Digital Selective Calling (DSC) NAVTEX.

Practical use of DSC equipment.

Skills assessment

1730 Completion of course

## Course Dates

Location	2009
SOUTHAMPTON Universal Marina	Jan 9 24 Feb 6 21 Mar 7 21 Apr 9 24
	May 9 22 Jun 26 Jul 10 24 Aug 1 28
	Sep 12 25 Oct 10 23 Nov 6 27 Dec 4

## Course Cost

**One Day SRC course with assessment £85**

**RYA Certificate issue Fee £25**

## How to Book

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

**Late Booking:** Phone the office we will do our best to accommodate you.

## Booking Conditions

Course Fees payable in advance. Examination Fees payable to 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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