



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI



F. No.25-25/2/2022/NT-DGS

Dated: 05.01.2024

DG Shipping Circular No. 01 of 2024

Subject: - **Guidelines for conduct of Global Maritime Distress and Safety System- Restricted Operators Certificate course and examination & issue of Certificate of Competency- reg.**

1. Introduction:

1.1: International Convention for Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention), 1978, as amended, International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS Convention), 1974, as amended, and Merchant Shipping (Distress & Safety Radio Communication) Rules, 1995, as amended, iterates that “Every person in charge of or performing radio communication duties on a ship required to participate in the GMDSS shall hold an appropriate certificate related to the GMDSS, issued or recognized by the Administration under the provisions of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations.

1.2: The Wireless Planning & Coordination Wing, Ministry of Communications implements the requirement of the provisions of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations, and conducting the GMDSS General Operators Certificate (GOC) and Restricted Operators Certificates (ROC) examinations and issue certificate and Licence to operate radio equipment.

1.3: The Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways implements the requirement of the provisions of the STCW & SOLAS Convention and issuing required GMDSS Certificate of Competency (COC) and STCW endorsements.

2. Objective of the Course:

A Candidate completing the GMDSS (ROC) course and passed the examination successfully should be able to operate efficiently all radio communication equipments fitted on board ships during emergencies. The GMDSS (ROC) certificate holders can be engaged in River-sea vessels, fishing vessels, Inland vessels & port crafts plying within Sea Area A1 including inland waterways.

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3. Eligibility criteria:

3.1: The eligibility to appear the Restricted Operators Certificates (ROC) examination is set out in the sub-para 2 (iii) & (iv) of Ministry of Communication Gazette notification no. GSR 1088(E) dated 5th November 2018. The sub-paras are quoted in 3.2 & 3.3 as stated under.

3.2: 2(iii)(II): "Passed 10th standard (Secondary School Certificate Examination) or an equivalent examination conducted by a recognized Board or University in India or holds a valid certificate issued by statutory bodies of maritime boards or fisheries of State or Central Government shall be eligible for admission for category of certificate under sub-rule (iv) of rule 3. and;

3.3: 2(iv)(c) has undergone a practical training on GMDSS equipments, in any of the institutes approved by the Central Government for a period not less than one week in case of category of certificate under sub-rule (iv) of rule 3".

4. Course duration:

The duration of course is forty (40) hours and the required training is to be completed in five (5) days. The theory part is twenty (20) hours and practical is twenty (20) hours.

5. Syllabus:

5.1 The syllabus of the GMDSS (ROC) course shall be governed by the IMO Model Course 1.26, guidelines of Ministry of Communications Office Memorandum No. P-14036/01/2018-COP dated 17th August 2023 and Directorate General of Shipping (this) Circular. The training institutes and faculties needs to be guided accordingly.

5.2: The training institutes shall prepare and circulate the handouts among the course participants based on the IMO Model course prior commencement of the course. The course material used for GMDSS (GOC) training can also be used for GMDSS (ROC) training subject to limitation of studies within the scope of GMDSS Sea Area A1.

6. Examination schedule:

The schedule of examination for the calendar year shall be prepared and published by WPC Wing, Ministry of Communications.

7. Examination particulars

7.1: The examination shall be conducted by two examiners. One examiner from WPC (i.e. Examination-in-Charge) and One examiner from DG Shipping.

7.2: The examinations shall be conducted after the completion of the course, and the results thereof declared immediately. The Examiner-in-Charge shall issue a provisional certificate to the successful candidates immediately with validity for six (6) months.

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8. Examination pattern:

The examination shall be conducted in the manner as stated under;

8.1: Written Examination:

It consists of 50 marks. The topics will be ITU Radio Regulations, SOLAS requirement for GMDSS Sea Area A1 and basic radio communication. The type questions shall be multiple choice, fill in the blanks, short notes etc. There will be total 25 questions which carries two marks each.

8.2: Practical Examination:

It consists of 50 marks. The practical and oral examination shall be carried out on operation and maintenance of radio equipment used on board ships for GMDSS Sea Area A1 and communications relating to Distress, Urgency, Safety, Routine, Search & Rescue and Maritime Safety Information.

8.3: Declaration of result:

Combine result shall be declared after completion of both written and practical examination. Candidates are required to appear both written and practical examinations and shall score overall 50% marks for passing.

9. Examination fees structure:

9.1: GMDSS (ROC) examination fees for Ministry of Communications and for Directorate General of shipping shall be charged separately.

9.2: Fees for the Directorate General of Shipping for GMDSS (ROC) examination will be charged in accordance with section 1(d) Radio Communication function of fee schedule of Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014, as amended time to time.

9.3: Training institutes approved for conducting GMDSS (ROC) course shall collect DGS examination fees from the candidates appearing for the examination prior commencement of examination and submit it to the respective Mercantile Marine Departments (MMDs) along with list of candidates. The mode of payment shall be online into Bharatkosh and shall be in favour of "Principal Officer" of the respective MMD district.

10. Approval of training institutions:

10.1: In principle, all existing approved training institutes conducting GMDSS (GOC) course are also eligible to conduct the GMDSS (ROC) course. Separate approvals are not necessary for conducting ROC courses. The batch intake for ROC course shall be of same strength as approved for GOC course of the respective institute.

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10.2: For example: If an institute is approved for 12 candidates per batch and 12 batches in a calendar year for GOC course, same institute can take 12 candidates per batch and 12 batches in a calendar year for ROC course provided it is conducted in different dates from GOC course.

10.3: At all times, the training institutes shall ensure that the timing and conduct of ROC course should not overlap with GMDSS (GOC) course and should not adversely affect with the other courses running in the institute.

11. Eligibility for Foreign Nationals:

Foreign nationals holding Certificate of Competency, Certificate of Proficiency or meeting other eligibility criteria as laid down in MOC guidelines are also permitted to appear in the GMDSS (ROC) Examination subject to fulfilling the requirements as prescribed in the gazette notifications and guidelines issued by MOC.

12. Issue of GMDSS-COC as per STCW Convention:

12.1: Every person in charge of or performing radio communication duties on a ship required to participate in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System in addition to the compliance of the provisions of Merchant Shipping (Distress and Safety Radio Communication) Rules, 1995 shall hold a certificate of competency.

12.2: Every candidate for obtaining certificate of competency shall be;

- a) not less than eighteen years of age on the date of application;
- b) in possession of GMDSS (ROC) certificate & Licence to operate radio installations on board a ship, as applicable, and meet the standard of competence as specified in section A-IV/2 of the STCW Code; and
- c) meeting the standard of competence specified in paragraph 2 of section A-VI/1.

12.3: On demonstration of competence to perform the tasks, duties and responsibilities as set out in Table A-IV/2 of the STCW Code, the candidate shall be issued with a Certificate of Competency (COC) and necessary endorsement shall be made on the same as required by the STCW Convention.

12.4: The COC shall be issued in accordance with Rule 51 of Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014 as amended, in the format as specified in **Annexure-I**.

12.5: COC for GMDSS (ROC) may be obtained through online application to the respective Mercantile Marine Departments through e-governance portal of the Directorate General of Shipping. The required documents shall be submitted online along with the application and processing fees as specified in section 31 (b) or (c) of the schedule of Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014 as amended time to time. Online verification & assessment of documents will be carried out and COC will be issued.

12.6: Revalidation of COC for GMDSS (ROC) will be issued to candidates who are meeting with the sea time requirement as specified in section 51 of Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014 Part A of TEAP manual or having experience in teaching as GMDSS faculty or performing GMDSS related duties in VTS/port control or submit a fresh course attendance certificate.

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13. Eligibility to operate GMDSS Equipment:

Every Radio Operator holding GMDSS (ROC) Certificate and STCW COC, prior taking independent charge of a radio installation on board the ship shall perform duties associated with radio watch keeping and maintenance under the guidance of a qualified radio operator for a total period of at least two weeks at sea.

14. This is issued with the approval of Nautical Advisor to the GoI.


05/01/2024

Balunkeshor Mohapatra
Senior Radio Surveyor-cum-ADG(Tech.)



Government of India

a Certificate of Competency as

GMDSS Radio Operator

(Regulation IV/2 of STCW Convention)

**CERTIFICATE ISSUED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING
ACT 1958 (44 OF 58) AND THE INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION ON STANDARDS
OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, 1978,
AS AMENDED.**

To,

1. Whereas you have been found duly qualified to fulfill the duties of GMDSS Radio Operator of a ship in the Merchant Navy, the Central Government in exercise of its powers under the Merchant Shipping Act 1958 (44 of 58) hereby grants you this Certificate of Competency.

2. The Government of India certifies that the abovenamed person has been found duly qualified in accordance with the provisions of regulation IV/2 of the STCW Convention, as amended and has been found competent to perform the following functions, at the levels specified, subject to any limitation indicated until _____

FUNCTION	LEVEL	LIMITATIONS APPLYING (IF ANY)

The lawful holder of this certificate may serve in the following capacity or capacities specified in the applicable seafarers' requirements of the Administration:

CAPACITY	LIMITATIONS APPLYING (IF ANY)

Certificate No. MMD/..... Issued on.....

The Original of this certificate must be kept available in accordance with regulation I/2, paragraph 11 of the STCW Convention while its holder is serving on a ship.

Date and place of birth of the holder of the certificate.....

Signature of the holder of the certificate.....

Photograph of the holder of the certificate



(Official seal)

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Examiner of Master & Mates Mercantile Marine
Department
Mumbai/Chennai/Kolkata/Kochi/Kandla

The validity of this certificate is hereby extended until.....

Recent photograph of the Candidate



(Official seal)

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Signature of the duly authorized official

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Name of the duly authorized official

Signature of Candidate.....

Date of Revalidation.....

The validity of this certificate is hereby extended until.....

Recent photograph of the Candidate



(Official seal)

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Signature of the duly authorized official

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Name of the duly authorized official

Signature of Candidate.....

Date of Revalidation.....

The validity of this certificate is hereby extended until.....

Recent photograph of the Candidate



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