



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
34th session
Agenda item 3

STW 34/3/1
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VALIDATION OF MODEL TRAINING COURSES

Review of GOC and ROC Model Training Courses

Submitted by Norway

SUMMARY

Executive summary: It is proposed that the IMO Model Training Courses for GOC/GMDSS and ROC/GMDSS should be updated to reflect developments in maritime communications during the last few years in order to improve the competence of radio operators, and thereby the safety of seafarers.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 9

Related documents: IMO Model Training Courses 1.25 (GOC) and 1.26 (ROC), and ERC/DEC/(99)01^{*}

Introduction

1 When the implementation of GMDSS started in 1992 it was recognized a need for harmonization of the examination requirements for certificates of maritime radio operators. The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) was very active in this field, and in 1993 CEPT recommendation T/R 31-03 was developed to harmonize the examination syllabi for maritime radio personnel operating in the GMDSS.

2 IMO realized the importance of the harmonized examination requirements, and the Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping started the development of Model Training Courses covering the GMDSS radio operator's certificates. Denmark, Norway, United Kingdom and Inmarsat were supporting this work. In 1997 the GOC Model Training Course was adopted by IMO, followed by the ROC Model Training Course one year later. Both model courses were based on the CEPT recommendation.

^{*} A summary of the document is given in the annex, while copies of the full text of ERC Decision ERC/DEC/(99)01 will be made available at the STW 34 meeting.

3 The efficient operation of the GMDSS depends on the proficiency of the maritime radio operators, and the harmonized examination syllabi provided by the model courses have proved to be a valuable tool for improving the competence of the radio operators.

Discussion

4 Unfortunately serious operational mistakes still takes place in the GMDSS system, e.g. in the form of false distress alerts and incorrect use of proper communications procedures, and these factors have endangered the life of seafarers.

5 This lack of competence is not compatible with the requirements of STCW Chapter IV.

6 To alleviate these problems, the CEPT has updated and improved its harmonized examination syllabi for GOC and ROC, and made it into the “European Radio-communications Committee Decision of 10 March 1999 on the harmonized examination syllabi for the General Operator’s Certificate (GOC) and the Restricted Operator’s Certificate (ROC), (ERC/DEC/(99)01)”. This decision is adopted by the CEPT member countries for their maritime radio education.

7 The CEPT members maintain that the upgrade of the GMDSS syllabi is an important and essential step towards more correct use of GMDSS in maritime communications and thereby offering improved safety for seafarers.

Proposed solution

8 The IMO GMDSS model training courses should be reviewed and updated to make them into better tools for the education of competent maritime radio operators, and ERC/DEC/(99)01 may be a helpful input in that work.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

9 The Sub-Committee is requested to consider the proposal given above and decide as appropriate.

ANNEX

**Summary of ERC Decision
of 10 March 1999****on the harmonised examination syllabi
for the General Operator's Certificate (GOC)
and the Restricted Operator's Certificate (ROC)**

(ERC/DEC/(99)01)

“The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations

considering:

- a) that the Maritime Mobile Service and the Maritime Mobile-Satellite Service are services according to ITU Radio Regulations and governed by the ITU Radio Regulations and national regulations;
- b) that provisions closely related to the Maritime Mobile Service and the Maritime Mobile-Satellite Service are also given in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and other IMO conventions and resolutions;
- c) that it is desirable to establish common standards of competence for the personnel of stations of the Maritime Mobile Service and the Maritime Mobile-Satellite Service operating in accordance with the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS);
- d) that the GMDSS entered into force on 1 February 1992;
- e) that administrations are responsible, in accordance with Article S48 of the ITU Radio Regulations, to ensure that the personnel of ship stations and ship earth stations, operating in accordance with the GMDSS, are adequately qualified to enable efficient operation of the station;
- f) that Article S47 of the ITU Radio Regulations specifies the conditions governing the issue of GMDSS certificates for personnel of ship stations and ship earth stations and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) regulates the conditions for the issue of the GMDSS certificates;
- g) that IMO resolution A.703(17) recommends the training for maritime radio personnel operating in the GMDSS;
- h) that the development in IMO and changes in the GMDSS need to be monitored and consequent modifications introduced in the examination syllabi;
- i) that the basic requirements for the content of certificates are set down in Radio Regulations S47.9 through S47.16;
- j) that the Council Directive 94/58/EC on the minimum level of training of seafarers (amended by EU Council Directive 98/35/EC) gives the procedures and criteria for the recognition of certificates issued by third countries;
- k) that the Directive referred to in considering j) relates to seafarers onboard ships that are subject to the SOLAS Convention;

DECIDES

1. that administrations issue General Operator's Certificates (GOC) for candidates passing the examination described in Annex 1;
2. that administrations issue Restricted Operator's Certificates (ROC) for candidates passing the examination described in Annex 2;
3. that GOC and ROC certificates issued in accordance with this Decision shall bear a reference to the Radio Regulations and this Decision;
4. that administrations mutually recognise each others certificates when these are issued in accordance with this Decision;
5. that this Decision shall enter into force 15 of March 1999;
6. that administrations shall communicate the national measures implementing this Decision to the ERC Chairman and the ERO when the Decision is nationally implemented.”

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS FOR GENERAL OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATE (GOC) FOR THE MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE AND THE MARITIME MOBILE-SATELLITE SERVICE

The examination should consist of theoretical and practical tests and shall include at least:

- A. KNOWLEDGE OF THE BASIC FEATURES OF THE MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE AND THE MARITIME MOBILE-SATELLITE SERVICE
 - A1. The general principles and basic features of the maritime mobile service
 - A2. The general principles and basic features of the maritime mobile-satellite service

- B. DETAILED PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY TO USE THE BASIC EQUIPMENT OF A SHIP STATION
 - B1. Use in practice the basic equipment of a ship station
 - B2. Digital Selective Calling (DSC)
 - B3. General principles of Narrow Band Direct Printing (NBDP) and Radio Telex Systems. Ability to use maritime NBDP and Radio Telex equipment in practice.
 - B4. Usage of different INMARSAT systems.
 - B5. Fault locating

- C. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND DETAILED PRACTICAL OPERATION OF GMDSS SYSTEM AND SUBSYSTEMS
 - C1. Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)
 - C2. INMARSAT
 - C3. NAVTEX
 - C4. Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs)
 - C5. Search and Rescue Radar Transponder (SART)
 - C6. Distress, urgency and safety communication procedures in the GMDSS
 - C7. Distress, urgency and safety communications with non-SOLAS ships which only use radiotelephony
 - C8. Search and rescue operation (SAR)

- D. MISCELLANEOUS SKILLS AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS
 - D1. Ability to use English language, both written and spoken, for the satisfactory exchange of communications relevant to the safety of life at sea
 - D2. Obligatory procedures and practices
 - D3. Practical and theoretical knowledge of general communication procedures

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS FOR RESTRICTED OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATE (**ROC**) FOR THE
MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE AND THE MARITIME MOBILE-SATELLITE SERVICE

The examination shall consist of theoretical and practical tests and shall include at least:

- A. KNOWLEDGE OF THE BASIC FEATURES OF THE MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE
 - B. DETAILED PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY TO USE THE BASIC EQUIPMENT OF A SHIP STATION
 - B1. Use in practice the basic equipment of a ship station
 - B2. Digital Selective Calling (DSC)
 - C. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND DETAILED PRACTICAL OPERATION OF GMDSS SYSTEM AND SUBSYSTEMS
 - C1. Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)
 - C2. NAVTEX
 - C3. Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs)
 - C4. Search and Rescue Radar Transponder (SART)
 - C5. Distress, urgency and safety communication procedures in the GMDSS
 - C6. Distress, urgency and safety communications with non-SOLAS ships which only use radiotelephony
 - C7. Search and rescue operation (SAR)
 - D. MISCELLANEOUS SKILLS AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS
 - D1. Ability to use English language, both written and spoken, for the satisfactory exchange of communications relevant to the safety of life at sea
 - D2. Obligatory procedures and practices
 - D3. Practical and theoretical knowledge of general communication procedures
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