

YachtCom

Yacht Communications, Radar & Safety

GMDSS - Short Range Certificate

Marine VHF is the best way of summoning help, you can contact the coastguard up to 50 miles off-shore and talk to other yachts up to 15 to 20 miles on the open sea.

To obtain a GMDSS VHF-Short Range Certificate you need to attend a 1-day training course, which at the end of the day you will be a competent radio operator. No prior knowledge of radio communications is required.

Pre-course study is recommended and knowledge of the phonetic alphabet: -

A fa	B ravo	C harlie	D elta	E cho	F oxtrot
G olf	H otel	I ndia	J uliet	K ilo	L ima
M ike	N ovember	O scar	P apa	Q uebec	R omeo
S ierra	T ango	U niform	V ictor	W hiskey	X -ray
Y ankee	Z ulu				

The course is supported by a comprehensive set of course notes covering all related subjects which will be given out at the start of the course.

Students will learn: -

- ◆ How to operate a VHF and VHF-DSC transceiver
- ◆ How to make routine, safety, urgency and distress calls
- ◆ Basic understanding of Navtex, EPIRB and SART

Topics covered: -

- ▶ Regulations & procedures
 - Ships licence and operator's certificate
- ▶ Overview of GMDSS
 - Sea areas, MMSI and equipment
- ▶ Distress, Urgency, Safety and Routine calls
 - Procedure for making distress, urgency, safety and routine calls
- ▶ General VHF knowledge and radio propagation
 - Use of VHF channels
- ▶ GMDSS VHF DSC equipment in practice
 - Based on real GMDSS DSC radios
- ▶ Navtex, EPIRBs and SARTs

The equipment used during the course including ICOM M601, M422 and Standard Horizon GX1500E0 VHF DSC radios. We also have a NASA NAVTEX receiver and Pains Wessex EPIRB and SART. The equipment used is of the type you would install on a yacht.

Candidates must bring along a current passport size photograph of themselves and a cheque made payable to 'RYA' for £22 or can be paid by credit/debit card.

There will be a short assessment towards the end of the day. Candidates will be sent their VHF-SRC operator's certificate from the RYA.