

Subject :

Required qualification and numbers of
Radio personnel on board the GMDSS ship

NKTECHNICAL INFORMATION

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To : Shipowners and shipbuilders concerned

The 88 Amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention (hereinafter referred to as 74 SOLAS 88 Amendments) concerning Radio Communication for the GMDSS has already entered into force on 1st February 1992.

In Regulation 16, Chapter IV of 74 SOLAS it is prescribed that every ship which provide with radio installations in compliance with all the requirements of 74 SOLAS 88 Amendments shall carry radio personnel holding certificates specified in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulation as appropriate.

As practical measure, the qualification and numbers are required by the flag state depending on their interpretation of the Regulation.

In this connection, we would like to inform you of the own requirements of each Administration as attached hereto.

Meanwhile please feel free to contact the person in charge of GMDSS in Equipment Department of the Society for any inquiry or information you may need.

Attached : REQUIRED QUALIFICATION AND NUMBERS OF
RADIO PERSONNEL ON BOARD THE GMDSS SHIP

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REQUIRED QUALIFICATION AND NUMBERS OF RADIO PERSONNEL ON BOARD THE GMDSS SHIP**1. QUALIFICATION OF RADIO PERSONNEL**

In Reg. 16, Chapter IV of 74 SOLAS 88 Amendments, it is specified that every ship shall carry radio personnel who are the holders of certificates specified in the Radio Regulations as appropriate, any one of whom shall be designated to have primary responsibility for radio communications during distress incidents. At the meeting of World Administrative Radio Conference (hereinafter referred to as WARC) held in 1987, the requirements for the qualification and numbers of the radio personnel have been adopted in Article 55 and 56 of Radio Regulation of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (hereinafter referred to as RR55 and RR56), the requirements in RR56 on kinds of qualification depending upon the navigational sea areas have been further revised in 1992 taking account of the requirements in 74 SOLAS 88 Amendments for GMDSS.

According to the revised requirements, when other methods than at-sea maintenance capability are adopted, qualifications and minimum numbers of radio personnel required are as undermentioned.

On ships engaged on voyage exclusively in sea area A1,

one person holding a qualification of 1st REC* or 2nd REC* or GOC* or ROC*

On ships engaged on voyage beyond sea area A1,

one person holding a qualification of 1st REC* or 2nd REC* or GOC*

The revised requirement, RR56, is not effective yet, however, as a tentative measure, the resolution which specifies that the revised RR56 is applicable in advance of the effectivation, has also been adopted considering that 74 SOLAS 88 Amendments have already entered into force.

* The licenses of radio personnel engage in operation and maintenance or only in operation as specified in RR55 which was adopted at the meeting of WARC held in 1987 are as follows.

For personnel engage in operation and maintenance;

1st Class Radio Electronic Certificate : 1st REC

2nd Class Radio Electronic Certificate : 2nd REC

For personnel engage only in operation;

General Operator's Certificate : GOC

Restricted Operator's Certificate : ROC

2. QUALIFICATION AND MINIMUM NUMBERS OF RADIO PERSONNEL REQUIRED BY EACH FLAG STATE:

A. In case at-sea electronic maintenance capability is excluded from selected combination of methods as stated in Reg.15-7 of 74 SOLAS 88 Amendments.

sea area flag	A1	A1 + A2	A1 + A2 + A3	A1+A2+A3+A4
Bahama	One ROC holder	One GOC holder		
Cyprus	Note 1	Two deck officers holding GOC		
Hong Kong	Note 1	One person holding GOC issued by the Hong Kong Telecommunications Authority (HKTA) or one person holding GOC issued by his native country together with a valid "Authority to Operate" issued by the HKTA		
Kuwait	Note 1	One 1st class or 2nd class REC holder		
Liberia Note 2	Note 1	One exclusive radio operator holding 1st class or 2nd class REC issued by the Liberian Government or two deck officers holding GOC issued by the Liberian Government		
Panama Note 3	Note 1	Three watch standing deck officers holding "Radio operator's certificate(GMDSS)" or one exclusive radio officer holding "Radio operator's certificate(GMDSS)"		
Philippine Note 4	Note 1	Two deck officers holding GOC or one exclusive radio officer holding both 1st class Radiotelegraph Operator's License and GOC		
Singapore	One ROC holder	One GOC holder	One exclusive GOC holder or two non-exclusive GOC holder	
Thailand	Note 1	One GOC holder		
Vanuatsu	Note 1	One GOC holder		

Note 1. For ships engaged on voyage exclusively in sea area A1, specific requirements are not given, an inquiry is requested to the NK Head office if necessary.

Note 2.

(1) As for qualification for GMDSS ships;

Qualifications meet to RR55 are required.

Existing radiotelegraph operator's certificate and radiotelephony certificate are regarded to be comparable to REC and GOC respectively, however, the personnel who engage in radio service on board GMDSS ships shall have reissued certificates as a substitute for those existing certificates.

(2) Necessary steps for application for an issuance of qualification certificate

- 1) No presentation of the previous service record of the person himself is required for qualifications 1st/2nd REC, GOC or ROC.
- 2) It is necessary either to pass written examinations or to present a qualification certificate issued by the native country which deemed to be equivalent to the GMDSS license in RR55.
- 3) Qualification certificates which deemed by Liberian Government to be equivalent to the GMDSS license are;
 - (a) For ROC (Restricted Operator's Certificate),
Radiotelephone Operator's Certificate or Radiotelephone Operator's Restricted Certificate issued by Liberian Government or his native country.
 - (b) For GOC (General Operator's Certificate),
Radiotelephone Operator's General Certificate issued by Liberian Government or his native country.
 - (c) For 2nd REC (2nd Class Radio Electronic Certificate),
2nd Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate issued by Liberian Government or his native country.
 - (d) For 1st REC (1st Class Radio Electronic Certificate),
1st Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate or Radiotelegraph Operator's General Certificate issued by Liberian Government or his native country.

Note 3.

A qualification certificate necessary for operating GMDSS radio installation to be issued by Panamanian Government;

The qualification certificate with the word "GMDSS" in the column of limitation (hereinafter called "Radio operator's certificate (GMDSS)") will be issued corresponding to the GOC certificate issued by applicant's native country.

The said qualification certificate will also be issued when the content of trainings which have been conducted by the country, agency or manufacturer is satisfactory in compliance with the requirements in STCW convention and IMO Resolution A703(17).

Note 4.

In order to get the GOC certificate issued by Philippine Government, a certificate of completion/ attendance of trainings for GMDSS shall be submitted, it is noted that those completion/ attendance certificate could not be effective like as the qualification certificate.

- B. In case at-sea maintenance capability is included in selected combination of methods as stated in Reg. 15-7 of 74 SOLAS 88 Amendments;

The radio personnel shall necessarily be capable of maintaining the installation, personnel holding the certificates of 1st or 2nd REC specified in Radio Regulation are regarded to meet to this requirement. As it is quite rare to select at-sea maintenance capability, specific requirements for qualification and numbers of personnel are not given by other flag states than mentioned below.

Please contact the person in charge of GMDSS in Equipment Department of the Society if necessary.

(1) Liberia

One person holding 1st or 2nd REC

(2) Panama

One exclusive radio officer holding existing 1st or 2nd class radio officer's certificate together with "Radio operator's certificate (GMDSS)" when exclusive radio officer does not hold the "Radio operator's certificate (GMDSS)", three watch standing deck officers holding those certificates are required.

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