Hello all stations,

Living with acronyms is an unavoidable fact of life in the 21st Century! Consider the following example:

ACMA has informed OMC which is operated by AMC, an institute of UTAS, that MROCP and MROVCP are now renamed to reflect ITU terminology and align the naming of Australian certificates with the common world practice.

In a nutshell, the Office of Maritime Communications (OMC) will henceforth issue Marine Radio Certificates under the following new names:

1. Short Range Operator Certificate of Proficiency (to replace the current MROVCP)
2. Long Range Operator Certificate of Proficiency (to replace the current MROCP)

The new terminology will better reflect the nature and limitations of these internationally recognised certificates and their equivalency with overseas certificates.

Since the existing MROCP and MROVCP have no expiry dates, their holders have no obligation to replace them (nominal fee applies if a replacement is required).

Regards Sam

Changes we have in Progress

RROCP - since September 2010 we have been replacing an RROCP with an MROCP qualification. At the time of this decision the difference in the two syllabi were DSC and EPIRBS (the EPIRB component considered to be minor in nature).

Since then apart from DSC and EPIRBS, the signals Prudence and Seelonce Distress are no-longer used.

Also the new Training Package MARC020 under the Assessment Conditions, resources for assessment must now include AIS Search and Rescue Transmitter (AIS-SART), AIS-Man Overboard (AIS-MOB) and DSC-Man Overboard (DSC-MOB).

As a result of the differences in the syllabi a change in policy as of June 2015 means a replacement certificate is not available for the RROCP. An Evidentiary Letter will be issued confirming the validity of the certificate. Even though the marine radio operator qualifications are perpetual we recommend that anyone holding a 3rd COCP, ROCP and the RROCP retrain and gain the current qualification.

Competence Based Training and Assessment

Options:-

Training and assessment provided by RTO’s.

What evidence do we require from RTOs conducting courses under the MAR packages (no OMC examination provided)? We are considering an introduction date as of 1 January 2016.

We are also composing a template of details that RTOs would have to send OMC on the RTO’s letterhead, signed by an appropriate authorised person of the RTO. This would be accompanied with the student’s application form, photo and payment.

RTOs will still have the option to examine using our exams and then include a statement that the students have done a practical as per the MAR package requirements.

Training and assessment not provided by RTO’s.

How do we gather evidence that a practical component has occurred? What practical assessment method is acceptable and how will the practical be delivered by the invigilator?

Continued on page 2:-
Holidays and University Granted

Invigilator Contact Details
Managers – Siamack Yousofi
Senior Office Administrator
Suzanne Whitemore
Administration Assistant Elizabeth Johnston
Sheree Campton
Opening Hours
Monday to Friday - 9:00am to 5:00pm except for public holidays and university granted days.

Invigilator Contact Details
If changing your contact details, sponsor organisation, going overseas for a while or resigning as an invigilator, please let the office know so that our database can be updated.

Feedback
The OMC welcomes any feedback or comments regarding the content of this newsletter, our exams, the Marine Radio Operators Handbooks, and any other aspect of our service.

Changes we have in progress – continued
We are considering an electronic interactive examination that includes a simulation of a marine radio. We are reviewing ways of delivering this and the cost of developing the package. This however will require candidates to have access to computers and probably the internet.

Renaming of Certificates
In the next few months there may be some confusion and cross over as we start to introduce the new names of the marine radio certificates. The handbooks will not be changed until we have sold the current stock. We have just received a reprint of the MROHB, there is a paragraph in the front about the name change (slightly incorrect as a late change occurred). A request to our IT department to update our database is in the system. Once our database has been changed we will update the application forms, examination papers and the website. We apologise in advance if we cause some inconvenience in this time of change.

MROCP will be LROCP – Long Range Operator Certificate of Proficiency.

MROVCP will be SROCP – Short Range Operator Certificate of Proficiency.

Expired exams
Don’t forget to return all expired exam papers at the end of June, used and unused. Just out of interest it costs 66 cents to print a MROCP paper. Please try and use the papers you have on hand before reordering.

BOM – news

HF radio is a vital ally on the high seas, where the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) operates a far-reaching Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) communication network from two HF radio transmission stations at Wiluna and Charleville in conjunction with the Bureau of Meteorology. The Bureau’s Space Weather Services provide a vital monitoring service for shipping as well as our passenger planes, defence forces and emergency services – thanks to a hundred-year-old technology that shows no sign of losing its lustre.

MRO Handbook – reprint
The MRO Handbook will be available early July. Unfortunately the book weight is heavier, due to changing the paper from glossy to matt. Now, 7 books will fit in a 3kg bag and 13 in a 5 kg bag (instead of 9 and 15 respectively).

The editing errors in the handbook have been corrected. We have also taken the opportunity to add a couple of small paragraphs about AIS-SART, AIS-MOB and DSC MOB. Under the new training package MARC020, Assessment Conditions, resources for assessment must now include AIS-SART, AIS-MOB and DSC MOB.

Expired exams
Don’t forget to return all expired exam papers at the end of June, used and unused. Just out of interest it costs 66 cents to print a MROCP paper. Please try and use the papers you have on hand before reordering.

Frequently asked Questions (FAQ’s)
Q. Will OMC be attending the Sydney Boat Show 2015?
A. Yes we are!! Come and meet Liz and Suzanne, we are sharing a stand with BOM, in the Marine Safety Precinct. Just inside the entrance, where the ferry stops.