UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA | AMC Australian Maritime College

OMC Newsletter

Winter 2016
Issue 55

Must see videos:

How to use VHF Marine Radio

Sending a distress signal

Digital Selective Calling

Uses of VHF Marine Radio

Web links of Interest:

ACMA

Radiocommunications (Maritime Ship Station – 27MHz and VHF) Class License 2015

VHF Marine Radio

Subscribe to the ACMA Marine radio e bulletin

BOM

Marine and Ocean weather

Communication services

AMSA

Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI)

Promotional Material

OMC Pamphlets – having an event, request some OMC pamphlets.

INTERESTING READING

Article from the MAST magazine Boatwise concerning a Pan Pan call.

Refer page 4 - ONE RADIO CALL – BE PREPARED

Hi all,
Please be aware of the following two changes OMC is working towards.

Units of Competency (UOC)

OMC have been given approval by ACMA to trial, **for a one year period**, the issuing of marine radio operator certificates of proficiency, based on the applicant submitting an official certificate of competency issued by an RTO stating the full title of the relevant MAR UOC and date of issue.

Requirements
Applicants must attend a MAR training course at a RTO.
RTO's must have on scope, the training packages:
MARC020 – Transmit and receive information by marine radio;
MARC021 – Transmit and receive information by marine VHF radio; and
MARO003 – Transmit and receive information by the global maritime distress and safety system.

Commencement
The trail period will commence 1st August 2016 and finish 31st July 2017.

Cost
The application fee is $49.00 (including GST).

What does this mean?
Should OMC receive an application for a LROCP, SROCP or MSCE, which is supported by suitable evidence, the application would be accepted without the applicant being required to complete the equivalent OMC examination, and a certificate would be issued. Suitable evidence deemed equivalent includes:
LROCP requires evidence of attaining MARC020 or MARO003;
SROCP requires evidence of attaining MARC021 or MARO003; and
MSCE requires evidence of attaining MARO003.

Conditions for acceptance of Application.
OMC reserves the right to decline an application if the UOC does not include all requirements OMC have to meet to fulfil its obligations under the Deed of Agreement with the ACMA. The current revision of the UOCs, effective 27 February 2015, will be the only evidence accepted for recognition for issue of OMC qualifications during the trial period.
In short;

1. MAR Training Packages UOCs include **all** requirements of the OMC syllabi;
2. The RTO is authorised to issue the UOC based on their scope of registration; and
3. UOCs issued from 27 February 2015 will only be accepted.

Application Form
The application form can be printed from our website at http://www.amc.edu.au/invigilator-information.
Only print page 2 of the Application not the Answer Sheet (page 1).

Practical Component

You might remember that ages ago we mentioned that we had to introduce a practical component to our examinations. This has involved much debate and long discussions of which no feasible answer was forth coming. Our ideal would be for everyone to attend a course. However this does not help the people overseas who suddenly find they require a qualification, or those who cannot attend a course for reasons like cost, distance, availability and various other scenarios. So we have decided to start as simply as we can and build on what we find is acceptable. As part of the examination process we are considering introducing an Observation Check List. This will require the invigilator or trainer (provided invigilator is confident the trainer has assessed correctly) to mark as satisfactory or not satisfactory against a list of 6 – 10 questions. We will provide the questions and the recommended answers. The candidate will have to demonstrate their response on a marine radio (or simulation of). A good majority of our invigilators already do this.

We feel this will be a step in the right direction and eventually hope to provide examinations online with a simulation that will 'do all the work'.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

Office of Maritime Communications

Have a look at AMC on Facebook and Twitter

AMC

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Elizabeth Reeve
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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 or our service

Con't from pg 1

In the next coming weeks I will put up on our website the observation check lists we have compiled refer http://www.amc.edu.au/invigilator-information. We would greatly appreciate your input. If you could email your ideas to: amcom@amc.edu.au we will try and take them into consideration before introducing the Observation Check list.

If anyone has an alternate idea of how to introduce a practical component we would like to be informed. Please remember that we are constrained by our finances as any increase in costs is passed directly onto the application and handbook fees.

Thank you, regards Suzanne

BOM – News

In early June an East Coast Low produced hazardous weather for boaters and coastal communities from Queensland to Tasmania. The combination of big waves, strong winds and king tides resulted in significant coastal erosion in New South Wales. Find out more about this particular event from the ABC's Catalyst story at http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/4503317.htm . You can also learn about East Coast Lows from the Bureau's Mick Logan at http://media.bom.gov.au/social/blog/948/what-is-an-east-coast-low/

Interesting - why phones are not a good idea for marine assistance.

Our office had a phone call from one of our invigilators with an interesting bit of news.
He received a call on his private phone, the person making the call was requesting a tow but before he could get any details the phone went dead. Not much you can do to assist in that situation, makes you wonder what happened – almost like a TV series that leaves you on a cliff hanger for the season.

Application forms – Privacy release of information - Interpretation

On our application form we ask the candidate:

'If you require the result of your examination to be released to your invigilator and/or training provider **you must give permission**. Please indicate with a mark your response.

I permit the release of my name and results to my invigilator and/or training provider.' Yes No

Staff at OMC interpret this information thus:

Both boxes unmarked – no release.

One box marked – **whatever the mark** (squiggle, circle, cross, tick) the box marked is the response.

Two boxes marked – if there is no clear interpretation ie tick in one box and cross in the other (tick being the answer) then we err on the side of caution and do not release the information.

If the candidate has not given permission to release results the invigilator results letter will state - No release consent.

Sydney Boat Show 2016

Once again Liz and Suzanne will be at the Sydney Boat Show sharing a stand with the BOM people. We are in the Safety Zone precinct, come and say hello and pass the word around that we will be there to answer questions about marine radio certification. We will also be selling the handbooks at a discounted show special. So you not only get a discount but you save on postage.

Frequently asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q Where can I find an RTO with the AWQ on scope?

A. On the web go to:
http://training.gov.au/Search
type in Transmit and Receive.
The package is MARC019.