Hi all,

Well into another year. Thank you to all our invigilators during 2016, we hope this support continues in 2017. Many will have noticed that your invigilator status expires 30 June 2017. We will be sending re-registration forms out for you to complete hopefully sometime in April. If you do not receive one please let us know. We will be updating the Invigilator Guidelines to incorporate the requirement of an Observation Check List (refer our winter 2016 Newsletter). The Observation Check list will be required from 1 July 2017 being the commencement of the new contract. We will keep you updated in the Autumn Newsletter.

A request from a candidate

One of our candidates has requested that invigilators make clear to candidates all costs that are involved in relation to gaining a marine radio operators certificate. In the process of gaining his certificate he felt he had not been advised of all the costs involved. Happily the matter has been resolved, but he requested that invigilators be advised to review their promotional information.

Inmarsat B

For your information the following website has information regarding Inmarsat services.

http://www.inmarsat.com/services/safety/inmarsat-b/

End of Inmarsat B service

The legacy Inmarsat B service, which operated on the Inmarsat-3 satellite network, was closed in December 2016.

A long-running migration programme saw remaining customers upgraded to next-generation FleetBroadband, which offers simultaneous voice and data communications at higher speeds across the world’s oceans, through a range of cost effective and flexible tariffs.

Inmarsat continues to provide GMDSS-approved safety services using Inmarsat C and Fleet 77.

AMC new website

Finding to a bit confusing to locate OMC? The following link may help.

http://www.amc.edu.au/industry/omc

Ordering papers and books

Please ring, email or use the online ordering system:


WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL HOBART
February 10-13

Suzanne and Liz will be at the Hobart Wooden Boat Festival stand 5 next to AMSA, come and have a chat!

Lastly please note the new personal phone numbers for Suzanne and Sheree on the reverse of this newsletter.

Regards Suzanne, Liz and Sheree

Direct Debit Payments - Important

If you or your organisation is making a direct debit payment to the UTAS bank account it is very important that you send the deposit information to amcom@amc.edu.au. The UTAS bank account is huge and unless we know you have deposited the money it may be weeeeeeeks before UTAS advise us that a deposit has been made. This has delayed the dispatching of handbooks and the issuing of results. Please pass this information on to the person who makes the payments.
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.

Handbook Reprints
We have just reprinted the MV Handbook, refer the previous newsletter for the minor changes.

The MRO Handbook will be reprinted in the next month. The only changes are the ISBN number a few minor errors have been corrected and the names of the certificates have been updated. Application and any reference to Inmarsat M and B have been deleted.

As most of you will be aware the ITU is making a recommendation that new simplex channels be derived from the existing Duplex channels. ACMA and other interested Australian parties are looking at the recommendations and are considering this as an opportunity to review the frequency allocations. When ACMA advises us of any changes we will up-date the handbooks. However as you know changes are slow to happen.

The Maritime Communications Satellite Systems and Equipment (MCSSE Handbook) which is available on the web for free printing has also been updated. Taking out any reference to Inmarsat M and B. Inmarsat B has now been decommissioned.

BOM – News
In all Bureau of Meteorology marine forecasts, there is a statement which reads "Please be aware: Wind gusts can be 40 percent stronger than the averages given here". We include this statement in our forecasts to alert users to the fact that wind gust strengths stronger than the average winds in the forecast may be experienced. Wind gusts should always be expected, and as stated can be up to 40% higher than forecast wind strength. For example, if a 15 knot wind is forecast, gusts can be over 20 knots. However, this statement does not apply to gusts caused by squalls or thunderstorms. During a thunderstorm or a squall, wind gusts may be significantly higher (sometimes well over 40 knots) and may come from any direction.


2017 Application & Handbooks
Fees
The 2016 fees will carry through until the end of the current contract - 31 July 2017.

During the five years of the current contract with ACMA we have introduced a new fee as at 1 Jan each year (or as close as possible).

ACMA has renewed the contract with UTAS/AMC for another 5 years.

In the next 3-4 months OMC staff will be calculating fees for the new contact. Once approved by the appropriate government authorities a new fee schedule will be introduced. We are aiming to commence new fees at the same time as commencement of the new contract, 1 August 2017. Fees are always published on our web at: http://www.amc.edu.au/industry/omc/omc-fees-and-payment.

Notification will be given as soon as possible through emails to invigilators, OMC Newsletters, notes in the examination packages and the web.

At this stage we have no idea of the scope of changes to the fees. A full analysis of OMC finances has to be conducted and calculations made. Including obligations OMC must fulfil as per the Deed of Agreement with ACMA.

Until all this has been done the fees will remain as per 2016.

Expired Exam Papers
Don’t forget to return all unused exam papers and reorder for the next six months. We need to account for the papers in your file used and unused.

If you have a problem like no photo or payment just send the paper back and we will contact the person.

Thank you