

FAQ's

Who is the Office of Maritime Communications?

The Office of Maritime Communications is the only body in Australia that can award marine radio qualifications. The office is part of the Australian Maritime College, Australia's national centre for maritime training, education and research.

Do I need a license for the 27 MHz or VHF radio?

Individual licences are not required for 27 MHz or VHF marine radio transceivers but the operator of a VHF marine Radio does require a Certificate of Proficiency. Because 27 MHz and VHF marine radios are now class licensed, official call signs are no-longer issued. However, operators are still required to identify their vessels at the beginning of each series of transmissions.

Does the MF/HF marine radio require a license?

Yes, the apparatus needs to be licensed and the operator requires a Certificate of Proficiency. When the apparatus is licensed a call sign will be issued by the ACMA (Australian Communications and Media Authority).

How often do I have to update my Certificate of Proficiency?

Certificates of Proficiency are issued for life and do not need renewing. This is different from the GMDSS qualification which is required to be revalidated every five years.

Who is an Invigilator?

An Invigilator is a person whom is certified to supervise examinations. A list of Invigilators is located on the website:
<http://www.amc.edu.au/industry/omc/invigilator-search>

If a candidate fails can they re-sit the exam?

Yes, a candidate may re-sit the examination as many times as it takes to gain the Certificate of Proficiency. Each time the candidate must pay the current processing fee and submit a photo. However, after the second or third attempt the candidate or invigilator should query the circumstances and reassess the situation. Would the SROCP certificate be more appropriate or should a special examination be considered?

Can the holder of an Amateur or Aviation Radio License receive exemptions for the Marine Radio Certification?

No. Amateur and aviation radio certificates are not valid for marine radio operations. These operators must successfully gain their SROCP/ LROCP Certification.

Does a candidate have to attend a training course?

It depends on the Certificate of Proficiency. The inside of this brochure explains the Certificates of Proficiency and the options for preparation of examination.

Is my overseas marine radio qualification valid in Australia?

Australia recognises other countries' marine qualifications that are issued according to International Telecommunication Union recommendations. Submit a copy of your qualification to ACMA, if you have any doubts.

For more information on how to get your
Radio Operators Certificate visit our website:

www.amc.edu.au/industry/omc

or contact us on
p 1300 365 262
e amcom@amc.edu.au



"YES"

you **DO** need a
Radio Operators
Certificate



Australian Maritime College Office of Maritime Communications (OMC)

MARINE RADIO OPERATOR CERTIFICATES

- > **SROCP** - Short Range Operator Certificate of Proficiency (for VHF radio operations);
- > **LROCP** - Long Range Operator Certificate of Proficiency (for VHF & MF/HF radio operations) and;
- > **MSCE (SATCOM)** - Marine Satellite Communications Endorsement

WHY DO I NEED A CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY?

- It is a legal requirement under the *Telecommunications Act 1992*. Be legal!
- Your DSC will not work without a MMSI Number - you will need your certificate to apply for a MMSI Number.
- Marine radio communications provide a number of services to small vessels, including weather and navigational information.
- Help save a life - know how to make an emergency call and how to respond in an emergency situation.

CHECK IF YOU ARE ALREADY QUALIFIED

If you are unsure whether you are already qualified, contact the office on 1300 365 262 before attempting the current examination. Failure, may cancel a current qualification.

TALK TO YOUR LOCAL MARINE RESCUE

Many of the marine rescue organisations will have information about marine radio qualifications, courses and invigilator (examination supervisor) contact details.

As a delegate of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), the Australian Maritime College is responsible for the management of all functions associated with marine radio examinations and certification services in Australia.



OBTAINING YOUR CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY

Age Requirement - you must have had your 16th birthday prior to sitting an examination.

There are two ways to obtain a certificate of proficiency:

- Successfully complete an OMC examination; or
- Submit an application for the recognition of a Unit of Competency

OMC Examination

All examinations are supervised by OMC registered invigilators (examination supervisors).

Practical Component - the examination process includes a practical component, this may be in the form of 'role playing'. This is where you show your ability to 'make a distress call', 'log in/log out' and demonstrate the Digital Selective Calling (DSC) system. You should talk to your invigilator (examiner) to find out what is required.

Written Component - Examinations are multi-choice with a 70% pass requirement. Duration of examination: LROCP - 60 minutes; SROCP and MSCE - 30 minutes.

The MSCE certification requires the candidate to be the holder of a valid SROCP, LROCP or equivalent, prior to gaining the MSCE qualification. A candidate must attend a course with an equivalent or higher qualified trainer. Access to a fully operational Inmarsat-C terminal and a computer with Inmarsat-C software is also required.

SROCP and LROCP - you may choose to study independently or to attend a course offered by a training provider.

- **Independent Study** - examination questions are based on material contained in our handbooks. We recommend that you obtain a copy of the handbook relevant to the qualification. Each handbook includes the recommended syllabi for the certificate and icons throughout the book indicate relevant areas of study for each qualification. When you are confident that you are ready to be examined, you must contact an invigilator in your area and arrange a suitable time, date and place to sit the examination. A list of invigilators may be located at: <http://www.amc.edu.au/industry/omc/invigilator-search>

- **Attend a Course** - Your first step will be to make enquiries about training courses available in your area. Training courses vary markedly in terms of scope and cost. Do your homework before committing yourself to attend and pay for any particular course. For example, will there be an OMC registered invigilator conducting the examination at the completion of the course? Are the costs of the handbook and examination marking included in the course fee?

Unit of Competency

- OMC will only accept a Unit of Competency (UOC) application if you have successfully completed a course at a Registered Training Organisation where the course is conducted as per the national training packages MARC043, MARC044 or MARO003. Suitable evidence of attaining the unit must accompany the application. The current revision of the UOCs, effective 27th February 2015, will be the only evidence accepted for recognition, provided the UOCs include all requirements of the OMC syllabi. More information and an application form may be located at <http://www.amc.edu.au/industry/omc/certificates>

STUDY TOOLS

Handbooks and Revision Questions

Handbooks relevant to each qualification are available for purchase through our office either by calling or using the online ordering/purchase facility: <https://payments.utas.edu.au/OneStopWeb/OMCHandbooks/menu>.

To assist you in your studies a set of multi-choice revision questions are available at: <http://www.amc.edu.au/industry/omc/handbooks-and-revision-questions>

REPLACEMENT OF A CERTIFICATE

AMC is also responsible for reissuing certificates that have been lost, damaged or require a name change. Information and forms are located on our website: <http://www.amc.edu.au/industry/omc/certificates/replacement-of-certificates>