

Translation: Only the Danish document has legal validity.

*Executive Order no. 516 of 15/05/2025
issued by the Danish Maritime Authority*

Executive Order on radio tests and certificates in GMDSS

Pursuant to sections 29 and 45(2) of the Radio Frequencies Act, cf. Consolidated Act no. 151 of 27 January 2021, and sections 24 a-g of the Act on the manning of ships, cf. Consolidated Act no. 74 of 17 January 2014, is laid down in accordance with the authorisation pursuant to sections 1 and 2 of Executive Order no. 143 of 1 March 2000 on delegation of powers regarding rule-making for certain tests for the Danish Maritime Authority and the Danish Transport Authority:

Scope of application

Section 1. This Executive Order lays down rules for training, examinations and GOC, ROC and LRC certificates for the operation of radio equipment in the maritime area. The rules cover approval of the training, the content of the training and the taking of examinations, as well as the issue and validity of certificates.

Definitions

Section 2. In this Executive Order, the following terms and abbreviations are used:

- 1) GMDSS is the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System.
- 2) GOC is an abbreviation for General Operator's Certificate.
- 3) ROC is the abbreviation for Restricted Operator's Certificate.
- 4) LRC is an abbreviation for Long Range Certificate.
- 5) MF is an abbreviation for Medium Frequency (medium wave).
- 6) HF is an abbreviation for High Frequency (short wave).
- 7) VHF is an abbreviation for Very High Frequency.
- 8) ECTS is an abbreviation for European Credit Transfer System.

Certificates

Section 3. The Danish Maritime Authority issues the following certificates after passing the examination:

- 1) General certificate as a radio operator in GMDSS (GOC).
- 2) Limited GMDSS Radio Operator certificate (ROC).
- 3) Certificate to operate maritime MF, HF and VHF radio installations (LRC).

Subsection 2. The examination requirements for GOC, LRC and ROC certificates are determined in accordance with the ITU Radio Regulations, Article 47 and the IMO STCW Convention, Table A-IV/2, and appear from Annex 1.

Subsection 3. A fee of DKK 855 is payable to the Danish Maritime Authority for issuing a certificate under this Executive Order.

Section 4. GOC and ROC certificates may be issued to persons who have reached the age of 18. LRC certificates can be issued to persons aged 16 years or older. The exam can be taken no earlier than 3 months before the age limits are reached.

Subsection 2. Foreign certificates issued in accordance with pan-European decisions and recommendations of the ECC Committee of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations

(CEPT), to which Denmark has acceded, are equivalent to certificates in accordance with this Executive Order if they bear an endorsement from the issuing authority stating that they are in accordance with the said decisions and recommendations.

Subsection 3. The Danish Maritime Authority may recognise other foreign certificates that are equivalent to certificates issued by the Danish Maritime Authority for the operation of radio equipment on Danish ships. It is a prerequisite for recognition that the certificate complies with the provisions on certificates in the International Radio Regulations and is valid in accordance with the provisions of the foreign authority.

Approval of the training programme

Section 5. Training and examination for the acquisition of a certificate shall be completed at a college approved by the Danish Maritime Authority.

Subsection 2. Approval of colleges may be granted either

- 1) In accordance with the Danish Maritime Authority's Executive Order on approval and quality assurance, etc., of maritime education programmes, or
- 2) If the college documents that
 - a) The teacher possesses professional knowledge and skills corresponding at least to the requirements that the exam must document fulfilment of,
 - b) The teacher possesses relevant professional competence in the maritime radio field,
 - c) The teacher is familiar with the applicability of the programme; and
 - d) The necessary teaching facilities and up-to-date and operational radio equipment are present, see section 7.

Subsection 3. In order to obtain approval in accordance with subsection 2(2), the college must also prepare a brief account of the planned teaching for the exam.

Subsection 4. The Danish Maritime Authority may require a more detailed account of the teaching, cf. subsection 3.

Subsection 5. The Danish Maritime Authority may revoke the approval of a college, cf. subsection 2(2), if the college does not follow the written instructions issued by the Danish Maritime Authority.

Section 6. To be approved, the programme must have a duration corresponding to at least 3 ECTS points regarding GOC, 2 ECTS points regarding LRC and 1 ECTS point regarding ROC.

Section 7. Up-to-date, operational maritime radio equipment of the categories covered by the relevant certificate must be available for use in training and practical tests.

Subsection 2. Equipment of the categories emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB) and radar transponder (SART) may be so-called "dummy versions" of the equipment.

Subsection 3. Regarding satellite equipment, it is only a requirement that up-to-date and operational maritime Inmarsat-C equipment is available.

Subsection 4. Equipment requirements do not apply to the categories SSAS (Ship Security Alert System) and LRIT (Long-range identification and tracking of ships).

Teacher qualifications

Section 8. Teachers on the programmes must have an overall qualification level that is higher than the graduation level for the programmes. In addition to educational competence, qualification level refers to documented theoretical, academic, and/or professional competence.

Taking exams

Section 9. Examinations are held in accordance with the provisions of the Danish Maritime Authority's Executive Order on Examinations and Assessment of Participants on Maritime Education Programmes, unless otherwise stipulated in this Executive Order.

Subsection 2. Examinations at colleges approved in accordance with section 5(2)(2) shall be held as external

examinations with an external examiner appointed by the Danish Maritime Authority.

Section 10. Examinations are held in front of the teacher and an external examiner, cf. section 14.

Subsection 2. The exam is conducted as an oral exam, which includes a practical component. Part of the exam may be held as a written exam.

Section 11. Examinations at colleges approved in accordance with section 5(2)(2) must be booked with the Danish Maritime Authority no later than 30 days before the examination.

Subsection 2. The place and time of the examination, cf. subsection 1, shall be determined by the Danish Maritime Authority at the request of a college.

Section 12. The exam must be accompanied by a form prepared by the Danish Maritime Authority entitled "Recommendation to take the radio test", which is completed at the school where the exam takes place.

Subsection 2. Together with the recommendation, a declaration must be signed stating that the applicant is familiar with the provision in the International Radio Regulations on confidentiality.

Subsection 3. A valid photo ID in the form of a passport, discharge book, certificate of competency, driving licence or similar must be presented for participation in the test. For exams at colleges approved in accordance with section 5(2)(2), the ID must be presented to the external examiner.

Assessment

Section 13. All assessments for radio exams must be done with an exam. The assessment "pass" or "fail" is used in the exams.

Subsection 2. Assessments are carried out by the external examiner in collaboration with the teacher.

External examiners

Section 14. Examiners for radio exams must have detailed knowledge of GMDSS, hold a valid GOC certificate and otherwise comply with the provisions on examiners in the Danish Maritime Authority's Executive Order on holding exams and tests and assessments of participants in maritime education programmes.

Section 15. Examiners for radio examinations at colleges approved in accordance with section 5(2)(2) are appointed and authorised by the Danish Maritime Authority. The authorisation is normally granted for a period of 2 years, and in connection with the application for authorisation as an examiner, it must be documented that the applicant meets the requirements in section 14.

Subsection 2. The Danish Maritime Authority may decide that examiners who are authorised by the Danish Maritime Authority to act as examiners for radio examinations at colleges approved in accordance with section 5(2)(2) cannot participate in radio examinations at colleges approved in accordance with section 5(2)(1).

Validity of certificates

Section 16. A GOC certificate may be issued for up to 5 years after passing the examination, with a validity of 5 years from the date of issue.

Subsection 2. Holders of a GOC certificate that has lost its validity under subsection 1 may, upon application, be issued an LRC certificate. Holders of an LRC certificate are considered to be in possession of an ROC certificate.

Subsection 3. For renewal of a GOC certificate with validity for a further 5 years, the person concerned must document that they have

- 1) Served on seagoing ships as a radio operator under conditions where such a certificate is required for at least 1 year within the preceding 5 years,
- 2) Served on seagoing ships as a radio operator under conditions where such a certificate is required for at least 3 months within the preceding 6 months; or

- 3) Performed work which, according to the Danish Maritime Authority's assessment in each individual case, can be recognised as equivalent to the service required under no. 1 or 2.
- 4) In order to regain a GOC certificate for a new 5-year period for persons who do not meet the requirements in subsection 3, the person concerned must pass a regaining examination consisting of an oral and a practical part.
- 5) The test requirements for the renewal exam, cf. subsection 4, are set out in Appendix 1.
- 6) Requests for renewal of certificates are submitted to the Danish Maritime Authority using the Danish Maritime Authority's digital application system.
- 7) Renewal is granted in the form of a new certificate.

Section 17. The ROC certificate is issued with a validity of 5 years from the date of issue, after which it can be renewed for a new 5-year period upon application.

Section 18. The LRC certificate has no time limit on its validity.

Section 19. Regardless of the provisions of sections 16-18, the Danish Maritime Authority may, on reasonable grounds that a holder of a valid certificate no longer possesses the knowledge or skills required at the original examination, summon the holder of the certificate to take another exam.

Revocation, etc.

Section 20. The Danish Maritime Authority may revoke a certificate if the holder fails to appear for or fails to pass another exam in accordance with section 19.

Subsection 2. The Danish Maritime Authority may revoke a certificate or revoke the recognition of a certificate, cf. section 4(3), if the holder grossly or repeatedly violates the provisions on confidentiality or on the operation and use of radio equipment.

Subsection 3. The Danish Maritime Authority may revoke the recognition of a foreign certificate if the Danish Maritime Authority has reasonable grounds to suspect that the holder of the recognised certificate does not possess the knowledge or skills required in Denmark of holders of equivalent certificates.

Subsection 4. A certificate that has been revoked must be returned to the Danish Maritime Authority.

Entry into force

Section 21. The Executive Order entered into force on 1 July 2025.

Subsection 2. Executive Order no. 939 of 29 August 2011 on GMDSS radio exams and certificates is repealed.

Subsection 3. GOC certificates issued in accordance with previously applicable provisions without an expiry date are invalid.

Subsection 4. Apart from the certificates mentioned in subsection 3, other certificates issued in accordance with previous regulations remain valid, cf. sections 16 to 18.

Section 22. The Order shall not apply to Greenland.

The Danish Maritime Authority, 15 May 2025

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Appendix 1

Examination requirements for obtaining GOC, LRC and ROC certificates

A. To pass the GOC examination, the candidate must:

- 1) *Have knowledge of* the basic principles of the maritime radio services, including satellite communications, including
 - a) Types of communications,
 - b) Station types,
 - c) Frequencies and frequency bands,
 - d) Propagation of radio waves,
 - e) Methods of communication,
 - f) Types of transmission and modulation,
 - g) Antennas,
 - h) Power supplies, including batteries; and
 - i) The risks of high voltage.
- 2) *Be able to use*
 - a) Watch receivers,
 - b) VHF radio systems,
 - c) MF/HF radio systems,
 - d) Aerials,
 - e) Batteries,
 - f) Radio direction finding means, such as Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs), localisation equipment (SART) and portable VHF radio systems,
 - g) Digital selective calling, DSC
 - h) NAVTEX receivers,
 - i) Satellite communications (equipment or simulator); and
 - j) Radiotelex equipment.
- 3) *Be able to perform* basic troubleshooting using on-board measuring instruments and basic fault rectification such as replacing fuses, indicator lights, etc.
- 4) *Be able to apply* operational procedures for
 - a) Emergency, emergency and safety communications in GMDSS, including the provisions on communications in the IMO IAMSAR manual,
 - b) Use of radio equipment in emergency situations, e.g. abandonment, fire on board, breakdown of radio equipment,
 - c) Emergency, emergency and safety communications with non-GMDSS equipped ships,
 - d) Reception of Maritime Safety Information (MSI); and
 - e) Avoidance and mitigation of accidental alarms.
- 5) *Have an understanding of* the practical operation of
 - a) GMDSS,
 - b) Inmarsat's function in GMDSS, including
 - i) Inmarsat B/F,
 - ii) Inmarsat C; and
 - iii) Inmarsat EGC,
 - c) Search and rescue (SAR) services,
 - d) Ship reporting systems
 - e) Radio medical services

- f) Ship Security Alert System (SSAS); and
- g) Long-range identification and tracking of ships (LRIT).

6) *Be able to use* the English language, both written and oral, for the satisfactory exchange of communications relevant to the safety of life at sea

7) *Be able to apply* the regulations and instructions required on board ship, including the international signalling code and standard phrases when communicating and keeping radio records.

8. *Have knowledge of* procedures for general communications, including

- a) Selection of the appropriate method of communication in different situations,
- b) Traffic logs,
- c) Radio telephone conversations,
- d) Tariffs,
- e) Practical traffic routines,
- f) The main shipping routes,
- g) The location of Inmarsat coastal earth stations; and
- h) The location of the main coastal radio stations.

9) *Have knowledge of* the rules on continuous maintenance of routines and maintenance of GMDSS knowledge of radio operators on board ships (Familiarisation).

B. At the GOC recertification examination pursuant to section 16(4) and (5) of the Executive Order, the examination is conducted in accordance with the requirements for the GOC examination under point A, but only in the subjects relating to distress, emergency and safety communications under 2(a)-(i), 4, 5, 6 and 9.

C. To pass the ROC examination, the candidate shall:

1) *Have knowledge of* the basic principles of the maritime radio services, including

- a) Types of communications,
- b) Station types,
- c) VHF and UHF frequencies (channels),
- d) Propagation of VHF and UHF radio waves,
- e) Antennas; and
- f) Power supplies, including batteries.

2) *Be able to use*

- a) VHF radio equipment,
- b) Antennas,
- c) Batteries,
- d) Radio direction finding means, such as emergency position indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs), localisation equipment (SART) and VHF portable radios,
- e) Digital selective calling, DSC; and
- f) NAVTEX receivers.

3. *Be able to apply* operational procedures for

- a) Emergency, emergency and safety communications in GMDSS, including the provisions on communications in the IMO IAMSAR manual,
- b) Use of radio equipment in emergency situations, e.g. abandonment, fire on board, breakdown of radio equipment,
- c) Emergency, emergency and safety communications with non-GMDSS equipped ships,
- d) Reception of Maritime Safety Information (MSI); and

e) Avoidance and mitigation of accidental alarms.

4) *Have an understanding of* the practical operation of

- a) GMDSS,
- b) Search and rescue (SAR) services; and
- c) Radio medical services.

5) *Be able to use* the English language, both written and oral, for the satisfactory exchange of communications relevant to the safety of life at sea.

6. *Be able to apply* the regulations and instructions required on board ship, including the keeping of radio records.

7. *Have knowledge of* procedures for general communications in sea area A1, including

- a) Traffic lists,
- b) Radiotelephone calls,
- c) Tariffs,
- d) Practical traffic routines,
- e) The main shipping routes in Northern Europe; and
- f) The location of the main VHF coastal radio stations in Northern Europe.

8) *Have knowledge of* the rules on the continuous maintenance of routines and maintenance of GMDSS knowledge of radio operators in ships (Familiarisation).

D. To pass the LRC examination, the candidate must:

1) *Have knowledge of* the basic principles of the maritime radio services, including satellite communications, including

- a) Types of communications,
- b) Station types,
- c) Frequencies and frequency bands,
- d) Propagation of radio waves,
- e) Methods of communication,
- f) Types of transmission and modulation,
- g) Antennas; and
- h) Power supplies, including batteries.

2) *Be able to use*

- a) Watch receivers,
- b) VHF radio systems,
- c) MF/HF radio systems,
- d) Aerials,
- e) Batteries,
- f) Radio direction finding means, such as Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs), localisation equipment (SART) and portable VHF radio systems,
- g) Digital Selective Calling, DSC,
- h) NAVTEX receivers; and
- i) Inmarsat-C systems.

3. *Be able to apply* operational procedures for

- a) Emergency, emergency and safety communications in GMDSS, including the provisions on communications in the IMO IAMSAR manual,
- b) Use of radio equipment in emergency situations, e.g. abandonment, fire on board, breakdown of radio

equipment,

- c) Emergency, emergency and safety communications with non-GMDSS equipped ships; and
- d) Reception of Maritime Safety Information (MSI); and
- e) Avoidance and mitigation of accidental alarms.

4) *Have an understanding of* the practical operation of

- a) GMDSS,
- b) Inmarsat's function in GMDSS, including
 - i) Inmarsat B/F,
 - ii) Inmarsat C; and
 - iii) Inmarsat EGC,
- c) Search and rescue (SAR) services; and
- d) Radio medical services.

5) *Be able to use* the English language, both written and oral, for the satisfactory exchange of communications relevant to the safety of life at sea.

6. *Be able to apply* the regulations and instructions required on board ship, including the keeping of radio records.

7. *Have knowledge of* general communication procedures, including

- a) Selection of the appropriate method of communication in different situations,
- b) Traffic logs,
- c) Radio telephone conversations,
- d) Tariffs,
- e) Practical traffic routines; and
- f) The location of the main coastal radio stations.

8) *Have knowledge of* the rules on the continuous maintenance of routines and maintenance of GMDSS knowledge of radio operators in ships (Familiarisation).