CONCEPT

GMDSS General Operator's Certificate Training Course



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Introduction:

GMDSS General Operator's Certificate Training Course is a one-week course for bridge watchkeeping officers, marine radio operators, offshore vessel navigators, and maritime communications coordinators, culminating in a GMDSS Radio Communications and Distress Response Manual. Maritime operations face severe compliance exposure, search and rescue coordination failures, and safety risks from improper emergency alerting, unmanaged radio watchkeeping, and non-compliance with modernized SOLAS Chapter IV mandates. Nominees already monitor bridge radiotelephony, log marine radio traffic, and operate basic navigation consoles, refining their capabilities through realistic maritime communication simulation. CoreConcept Training Center delivers this course to align shipboard communications with international distress standards across offshore fleets.

Course Objectives:

- Execute maritime distress, urgency, and safety communications following SOLAS Chapter IV and ITU Radio Regulations
- Operate terrestrial VHF, MF, and HF consoles equipped with Digital Selective Calling according to STCW Table A-IV/2
- Manage satellite communications terminals including Inmarsat-C and recognized mobile satellite services for distress alerting
- Configure Maritime Safety Information receivers including international NAVTEX and enhanced group call systems
- Deploy satellite emergency position indicating radio beacons, search and rescue transponders, and reserve battery systems
- Assemble the GMDSS Radio Communications and Distress Response Manual to standardize shipboard watchkeeping protocols

Target Audience:

- Bridge watchkeeping officers responsible for maintaining continuous radio listening watches and routine vessel communications
- Marine radio operators responsible for transmitting distress alerts, managing console frequencies, and logging traffic
- Offshore vessel navigators responsible for coordinating emergency communications and navigating across defined sea areas
- Maritime emergency communications coordinators responsible for managing ship-to-shore search and rescue radio links

Course Outline:

Day 1: GMDSS Regulatory Framework and Terrestrial Radiocommunication Principles

- SOLAS Chapter IV Regulations Reviewing Global Maritime Distress Architecture
- STCW Section A-IV/2 Standards Establishing Radio Operator Competence Baselines
- ITU Radio Regulations Article 47 Classifying Ship Station Operational Certificates
- VHF DSC Transceiver Protocols Managing Digital Distress Alerting Sequences
- IMO Resolution MSC.496105 Provisions Updating Bridge Radiocommunication Systems

Day 2: Medium and High Frequency Terrestrial Systems and Watchkeeping Rules

- MF/HF DSC Controller Architecture Operating Automated Routine Calling Sequences
- Radiotelephone Voice Distress Procedures Executing Standardised International Phrases
- Narrow Band Direct Printing Telex Systems Transmitting Written Distress Messages
- COMSAR.1/Circ.32/Rev.3 Guidance Harmonising Shipboard Radio Installation Requirements
- Standard Maritime Communication Phrases Enforcing Clear Bridge Watchkeeping Communications

Day 3: Satellite Maritime Communications and Safety Information Services

- Inmarsat-C Mobile Earth Station Terminals Transmitting Priority Distress Alerts
- Alternative Mobile Satellite Systems Configuring Recognized Maritime Satellite Transceivers
- NAVTEX Service 518 kHz Receivers Programming Navigational Warning Filtering
- SafetyNET Enhanced Group Call Terminals Monitoring Coastal Area Broadcasts
- False Distress Alert Mitigation Procedures Executing Immediate Incident Cancellations

Day 4: Emergency Survival Craft Equipment and Power Supply Assurance

- 406 MHz COSPAS-SARSAT EPIRB Units Verifying Hydrostatic Release Mechanisms
- 9 GHz Radar SART Beacons Testing Locating Signal Transmissions
- AIS-SART Search and Rescue Units Tracking Automatic Vessel Broadcasts
- Shipboard Reserve Battery Power Banks Conducting Daily Voltage Drop Testing
- Standardised Radio Logbook Registries Recording Mandatory Daily Communication Entries

Day 5: Maritime Simulation Drills and Manual Compilation

- Multi-Station Console Simulation Lab Executing Coordinated Distress Calling Scenarios
- Search and Rescue Communications Simulation Managing Relay Distress Messages
- Simulated False Alert Cancellation Drills Transmitting Standardised Retraction Messages
- Emergency Reserve Power Transfer Simulation Validating Bridge Console Continuity
- GMDSS Radio Communications and Distress Response Manual Finalising Deliverable

Skills You Will Gain:

- VHF DSC Distress Operation
- MF/HF Console Frequency Management
- Inmarsat-C Safety Communications
- NAVTEX Broadcast Programming
- False Distress Alert Cancellation
- COSPAS-SARSAT EPIRB Deployment
- Reserve Radio Battery Testing

Why Attend This Course:

- Submit the GMDSS Radio Communications and Distress Response Manual to the marine operations manager to govern watchkeeping standards.
- Decide appropriate terrestrial frequency bands, satellite priority channels, and relay protocols during unfolding maritime distress incidents.
- Eliminate costly port state detentions and regulatory penalties caused by improper radio logkeeping or unverified emergency equipment.
- Transfer validated alert cancellation workflows, battery test methods, and digital selective calling practices to bridge watchkeeping teams.

Conclusion:

Following this course, the organisation implements the GMDSS Radio Communications and Distress Response Manual to standardize shipboard communications. The marine operations manager and designated person ashore utilize this deliverable to audit bridge logs, ensure compliance during vessel clearances, and establish distress response workflows across the fleet. Within ninety days of deployment, the marine safety department conducts an operational review of bridge watchkeeping records, reserve power inspection logs, and equipment test reports against international requirements to verify procedural compliance and maintain emergency readiness.

Frequently Asked Questions FAQ:

Which roles should an organisation nominate for the GMDSS General Operator's Certificate Training Course?

Organisations should nominate bridge watchkeeping officers, marine radio operators, offshore vessel navigators, and maritime communications coordinators. Nominees are operational practitioners responsible for maintaining mandatory radio watches, operating shipboard communication consoles, logging daily traffic, and coordinating emergency alerting across offshore vessels, merchant ships, and maritime support units.

What should nominees already do at work before attending the GMDSS General Operator's Certificate Training Course?

Nominees should already stand navigational bridge watches, operate basic marine very high frequency radiotelephones, and record routine vessel traffic logs. Familiarity with nautical terminology, standard navigation equipment, and vessel safety management systems ensures participants engage effectively with digital selective calling protocols and satellite distress procedures.

What does the organisation receive when the participant returns from the GMDSS General Operator's Certificate Training Course?

The organisation receives a GMDSS Radio Communications and Distress Response Manual. This operational package provides standard operating procedures for digital selective calling, satellite distress alerting, emergency false alert cancellation protocols, and radio equipment battery maintenance schedules to ensure full compliance during safety audits and port inspections.

Which standard or framework does the GMDSS General Operator's Certificate Training Course follow?

The course follows Chapter IV of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, IMO Resolution MSC.496105, STCW Regulation IV/2 and Section A-IV/2 standards of competence, and Article 47 of the International Telecommunication Union Radio Regulations governing General Operator's Certificate operational requirements.