

RESOLUTION 343 (REV.WRC-12)

**Maritime certification for personnel of ship stations and ship earth stations
for which a radio installation is not compulsory**

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2012),

considering

- a)* that WRC-97 considered the question of certification for personnel of ship stations and ship earth stations within the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS);
- b)* that GMDSS was fully implemented on 1 February 1999 by vessels subject to an international agreement;
- c)* that vessels not subject to an international agreement have adopted GMDSS systems and techniques;
- d)* that use of GMDSS equipment should be accompanied by appropriate training and certification;
- e)* that the Radio Regulations stipulate that the service of every ship radio station working on frequencies assigned for international use shall be performed by operators holding a certificate;
- f)* that WRC-07 suppressed Appendix 13 to the Radio Regulations, which specified distress communications and operator's certificates by radiotelephones, and that, in order to incorporate provisions for non-GMDSS certificates, WRC-12 has further modified Article 47,

noting

that a number of administrations currently issue radio operator certificates specially designed for the non-compulsory sector,

resolves

that administrations wishing to implement special certification for the non-compulsory sector should implement the certificates contained in the Annex to this Resolution,

invites ITU-R

to develop a Recommendation describing these certificates,

instructs the Secretary-General

to bring this Resolution to the attention of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 343 (REV.WRC-12)

Examination syllabus for radio operator's certificates appropriate to vessels using the frequencies and techniques of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System on a non-compulsory basis**Introduction**

The introduction of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) in February 1992 made it necessary to harmonize the examination requirements for certificates for professional radio operators. Harmonized examination procedures for the general operator's Certificate and restricted operator's Certificate, based on the syllabuses described in Article 47, have already been introduced for maritime radio operators performing radiocommunication duties on board vessels subject to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended. The GMDSS was fully implemented on 1 February 1999 for vessels subject to SOLAS, 1974, as amended.

For vessels not subject to SOLAS, 1974, as amended, and which install radiocommunication equipment on a voluntary basis, there are significant advantages to also using the GMDSS. However, it was foreseen by some administrations that such vessels would use some, but not all, of the frequencies and techniques of the GMDSS and that radio personnel on board such vessels would not need the same level of certification as radio personnel on board vessels which use all of the frequencies and techniques of the GMDSS on a compulsory basis. A syllabus has been developed which provides the flexibility for a depth of study, level of knowledge, and length of course appropriate to meet the certification requirements of radio personnel on board vessels which use some of the frequencies and techniques of the GMDSS on a non-compulsory basis. The syllabus also provides for certification in the use of satellite equipment where appropriate.

This Annex describes the syllabus developed to meet the certification requirements referred to above, and which are implemented in a number of countries under the title "Long Range Certificate" and "Short Range Certificate". The Short Range Certificate should at least contain those elements of the syllabus which are relevant to sea area A1.

Examination syllabus

The examination should consist of theoretical and practical tests and should include at least:

A General knowledge of radiocommunications in the maritime mobile service

A.1 The general principles and basic features of the maritime mobile service.

B Detailed practical knowledge and ability to use radio equipment

B.1 The VHF radio installation. Use of VHF equipment in practice.

B.2 The MF/HF radio installation. Use of MF/HF equipment in practice.

B.3 Purpose and use of digital selective calling facilities and techniques.

- C** **Operational procedures of the GMDSS and detailed practical operation of GMDSS subsystems and equipment**
- C.1 Basic introduction to GMDSS procedures.
- C.2 Distress, urgency and safety communication procedures in the GMDSS.
- C.3 Distress, urgency and safety communication procedures by radiotelephony in the old distress and safety system.
- C.4 Protection of distress frequencies.
- C.5 Maritime safety information (MSI) systems in the GMDSS.
- C.6 Alerting and locating signals in the GMDSS.
- C.7 Procedures for cancelling an inadvertent false alert transmission.
- D** **Operational procedures and regulations for radiotelephone communications**
- D.1 Ability to exchange communications relevant to the safety of life at sea.
- D.2 Regulations, obligatory procedures and practices.
- D.3 Practical and theoretical knowledge of radiotelephone procedures.
- D.4 Use of the international phonetic alphabet and, where appropriate, parts of the IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases.
- E** **Optional examination module for the maritime mobile-satellite service for vessels not subject to a compulsory fit**
- E.1 The general principles and basic features of the maritime mobile-satellite service.
- E.2 Operational procedures and detailed practical operation of ship earth stations in the GMDSS.

