

電訊管理局
Office of the Telecommunications Authority

認可的外國無線電證書持有人申請GMDSS等值資格證明書及簽註的指引
Guidelines for the Issue of GMDSS Certificate of Equivalent Competency
And Endorsement for Recognized Foreign Radio Certificate Holders

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The 1995 Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW 95) has been fully implemented on 1 February 2002. In accordance with Regulation I/2 and Regulation I/10 of STCW 95 and Hong Kong legislation, a seafarer manning a radio station on a Hong Kong registered ship has to hold either an appropriate Hong Kong issued GMDSS radio certificate, a GMDSS operator endorsement, or a certificate of equivalent competency with an endorsement in conformity with the STCW 95 format and requirements.
- 1.2 Irrespective of its date of issue, an endorsement shall expire as soon as the certificate to which it is issued expires, or is withdrawn, suspended or cancelled. In any case, an endorsement shall expire not more than five years after its date of issue. Upon expiry, revalidation of the endorsement may be applied for.

2. Recognition of Foreign Issued STCW 95 GMDSS Radio Certificates

- 2.1 A seafarer holding a recognized STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificates issued by a foreign administration can apply to the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) for a Certificate of Equivalent Competency (CoEC) and endorsement. Alternatively, if he is also holding a recognized STCW 95 Certificate of Competency as Deck or Engineer Officer, he may apply to the Marine Department for a Licence as Deck or Engineer Officer together with the GMDSS operator endorsement (para. 6 and 7 in the Annex of HKMSIN No. 23/2005 refers).

Issue of Full Term Certificate of Equivalent Competency and Endorsement

- 2.2 Holder of STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificate issued by an Administration in the list below will be recognized for the issue of a full term CoEC incorporated with a STCW 95 endorsement for a period of validity up to the expiry date of the original certificate being recognized or 5 years, whichever is the shorter:

Australia	Myanmar
Bangladesh	Netherlands
Canada	New Zealand
China, People's Republic of	Norway
Croatia	Pakistan
Denmark	Panama
Estonia	Papua New Guinea

Finland	Philippines
France	Poland
Georgia	Romania
Germany	Russia
Ghana	Singapore
Greece	Slovenia
India	South Africa
Indonesia	Sri Lanka
Ireland	Sweden
Korea, Republic of	Ukraine
Latvia	United Kingdom
Liberia	Vietnam
Malaysia	Yugoslavia

Issue of Short Term Certificate of Equivalent Competency and Endorsement

- 2.3 Holders of STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificate issued by the following countries would be eligible for the issue of a short term CoEC with an endorsement valid for a period of 12 months or the original validity of the recognized certificate, whichever is the shorter:

Belgium	Iran
Bulgaria	Malta
Cyprus	Marshall Islands
Czech Republic	Soloman Islands
Iceland	Spain

Revalidation of Short Term Certificate of Equivalent Competency and Endorsement

- 2.4 Subject to the validity of the STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificate, holders of short term STCW 95 CoEC can apply for revalidation of their CoEC for another period of 12 months if they can produce satisfactory proof of their continuous employment on a Hong Kong registered ship upon the expiry of their CoEC.
- 2.5 Upon a decision for full recognition of those STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificates issued by the countries listed in paragraph 2.3, the issue of short term CoECs based on such certificates will be discontinued and full term CoECs will be issued instead. Holders of these short term CoECs can then apply to renew their CoECs with full term CoECs.

3. Procedure for application

- 3.1 Applicants should complete the appropriate application form (OFTA A295), sign the Declaration of Secrecy (OFTA F226), and submit them in person to the address shown in paragraph 7.1 together with the original and photocopy of the following supporting documents:

- (a) passport or personal identification document(s);
- (b) seaman's discharge book or record of service;
- (c) recognized foreign STCW 95 GMDSS radio operator's certificate and endorsement ;
- (d) evidence that the training or instruction under STCW Code Section A-VI/1 have been met; and
- (e) medical fitness certificate.

3.2 Application can also be made by post. The applicant should submit, apart from the completed application form and signed Declaration of Secrecy, photocopy of all the supporting documents certified true by one of the following parties:

- (a) the master of the ship on which the applicant is serving (or is going to serve);
- (b) the owners/managers of the ship on which the applicant is serving (or is going to serve);
- (c) notary public; or
- (d) the issuing authority of the original document.

4. Fee

4.1 The issue fees are listed as follow:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| (a) Certificate of Equivalent Competency for : | |
| First Class Radio Electronic Certificate | HK\$780 |
| Second Class Radio Electronic Certificate | HK\$780 |
| General Operator's Certificate | HK\$410 |
| Restricted Operator's Certificate | HK\$410 |
| (b) Endorsement of certificate | HK\$160 |
| (c) Endorsement Revalidation | HK\$160 |

4.2 Cash payment is accepted only if it is submitted in person. Payment by cheque or bank draft etc. should be drawn in favour of "Office of the Telecommunications Authority" and cheque should be crossed. Any cheque or bank draft etc. from a bank abroad should include any additional charges which will be incurred by the local registered banks.

5. Rejection of application

5.1 The Telecommunications Authority reserves the right to reject any applications if he is not entirely satisfied that the applicant has met the criteria for application or he has suspicion to defraud of any of the supporting documents submitted.

6. OFTA's performance pledge and applicant's suggestion

6.1 OFTA commits to issue the CoEC and endorsement within 5 working days after receiving an application. (i.e. completed application form together with certified true copies of all relevant documents and appropriate fees).

6.2 If you have any suggestion for improvement or complaint relating to the issuing of the CoEC and endorsement, please send to the following address:

Controller Telecom (Support Services)
Office of the Telecommunications
Authority
36/F., Wu Chung House
213, Queen's Road East
Wanchai Hong Kong

Tel : +(852) 2961 6603
Fax : +(852) 2803 5113
E-mail : support_services @ofta.gov.hk

7. Enquiries

7.1 Enquiries relating to CoEC and Endorsement application should be made to:

Support Services Sub-section
Office of the Telecommunications Authority
36/F, Wu Chung House
213, Queen's Road East
Wanchai
Hong Kong

Tel : +(852) 2961 6608
Fax : +(852) 2803 5113
E-mail : maritime@ofta.gov.hk

7.2 Enquiries relating to licensing and GMDSS operator endorsement application for deck and engineer officers should be made to:

Senior Surveyor
Seafarers' Certification Section
Marine Department
3/F., Harbour Building
38 Pier Road, Central
Hong Kong

Tel : +(852) 2852 4368
Fax : +(852) 2541 6754
Telex : 64553 MARHQ HX
E-mail : ssrt@mardep.gov.hk

Office of the Telecommunications Authority
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
6 July 2005