

**Subject:**

Certificates to be held by radio personnel  
on and after 1 February 2002 on board  
Hong Kong flagged GMDSS ships

# **ClassNK**

## **Technical Information**

No. TEC-0433

Date 4 January 2002

To whom it may concern

Hong Kong Marine Department has informed us of radio certificate and endorsement to be held by radio personnel on board a GMDSS ship registered in Hong Kong on and after 1 February 2002. It is sincerely recommended that an appropriate action should be taken in accordance with the Notice and the Guidelines as per attached.

Radio personnel on board Hong Kong registered ships on and after 1 February 2002 should hold:

1. a valid STCW 95 Hong Kong issued GMDSS radio certificate with an endorsement in conformity with STCW 95 format issued by the Hong Kong Telecommunications Authority ; or
2. a valid and recognized foreign STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificate and a Certificate of Equivalent Competency with an endorsement in conformity with the STCW 95 format issued by the Hong Kong Telecommunications Authority ; or
3. a valid and recognized foreign STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificate and a license issued by the Hong Kong Marine Department with an endorsement indicating that the holder may serve in the capacity of GMDSS radio operator on a Hong Kong registered ship.

GMDSS Radio Certificates of Competency and Authority To Operate previously issued by the Hong Kong Telecommunications Authority under STCW 78 will become ineffective from 1 February 2002.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

NIPPON KAIJI KYOKAI (ClassNK)  
Material & Equipment Department, Administration Center, Head Office  
Address: 4-7, Kioi-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8567, Japan  
Tel.: +81-3-5226-2020  
Fax: +81-3-5226-2019  
E-mail: [eqd@classnk.or.jp](mailto:eqd@classnk.or.jp)

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Attachment: Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Notice No.1045

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# 香港商船通告

## HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE

### Application for GMDSS Radio Certificate of Competency and Endorsement under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended in 1995 (STCW 95)

To: *Shipowners, Ship masters, Agents and Seafarers' Unions*

#### *Summary*

The purpose of this Merchant Shipping Notice is to inform shipowners, ship masters, agents and seafarers' unions of the procedures for the application of Hong Kong GMDSS Radio Certificate of Competency, Certificate of Equivalent Competency and Endorsement for seafarers under Regulation I/2 and I/10 of STCW 95.

1. The 1995 Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW 95) will be fully implemented on 1 February 2002. In accordance with Regulation I/2 and Regulation I/10 of STCW 95, a seafarer manning a radio station on a Hong Kong registered ship has to hold an appropriate Hong Kong issued radio certificate and endorsement in conformity with the STCW 95 format and requirements. GMDSS Radio Certificates of Competency and Authority To Operate (ATO) previously issued under STCW 78 will become ineffective from 1 February 2002.
2. In accordance with the Laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, no person shall be qualified as radio personnel on board a GMDSS ship registered in Hong Kong unless he holds :
  - (a) a valid non-STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificate with an ATO issued by the Telecommunications Authority (TA) (*valid only until 31 January 2002*) ;

- (b) a valid STCW 95 Hong Kong issued GMDSS radio certificate with an endorsement in conformity with the STCW95 format issued by the TA ; or
- (c) a valid and recognized foreign STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificate and a Certificate of Equivalent Competency with an endorsement in conformity with the STCW95 format issued by the TA ; or
- (d) a valid and recognized foreign STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificate and a licence issued by the Marine Department with an endorsement indicating that the holder may serve in the capacity of GMDSS radio operator on a Hong Kong registered ship (paragraphs 6 to 8 of the Annex to HKMSN no. 1042 refers).

3. 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.

4. The guidelines for the issue of STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificates and endorsements to local radio certificate holders and the guidelines for the issue of STCW 95 GMDSS certificate of equivalent competency (CoEC) and endorsement to holders of recognized foreign radio certificate detailing the requirements and procedures of application are as in Annexes A and B respectively.

5. Any enquiries relating to this Notice should be directed to the Controller Telecommunications (Maritime Services)/Office of the Telecommunications Authority at tel. no. (852) 2961 6603 or fax no. (852) 2803 5113.

Marine Department  
Multi-lateral Policy division  
30 August 2001

# Office of the Telecommunications Authority

## Guidelines for the Issue of STCW 95 GMDSS Radio Certificate of Competency and Endorsement

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The 1995 Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW 95) will be fully implemented on 1 February 2002. In accordance with Regulation I/2 and Regulation I/10 of STCW 95, a seafarer manning a radio station on a Hong Kong registered ship has to hold an appropriate Hong Kong issued radio certificate and endorsement in conformity with the STCW 95 format and requirements. GMDSS Radio Certificates of Competency and Authority To Operate (ATO) previously issued under STCW 78 will become ineffective from 1 February 2002.
- 1.2 Irrespective of its date of issue, an endorsement shall expire as soon as the certificate to which it is issued 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. Criteria for the Issue of STCW 95 GMDSS Radio Certificate and Endorsement

- 2.1 To be eligible for the issue of STCW 95 GMDSS Radio Certificate of Competency and Endorsement, the applicant should:
- (a) be over 18 years of age;
  - (b) have successfully completed a GMDSS training course in compliance with STCW 95 requirements approved by the Telecommunications Authority (TA), or
  - (c) in case that the applicant is holding a GMDSS Radio Certificate issued under STCW 78, have successfully completed a STCW 95 GMDSS conversion course (covering Section A-IV/2 of the STCW Code) approved by the TA;

- (d) hold a valid and recognized medical fitness certificate; and
- (e) have received approved basic training or instruction in:
  - (i) Personal Survival Techniques (STCW Code A-VI/1-1),
  - (ii) Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW Code A-VI/1-2),
  - (iii) Elementary First Aid (STCW Code A-VI/1-3),
  - (iv) Personal Safety and Social Responsibility (STCW Code A-VI/1-4),(Note: a valid Certificate of Competency as Deck or Engineer Officer issued by the Hong Kong administration can be accepted as evidence of having received such training or instruction.)

### 3. Procedure for Application of STCW 95 GMDSS Radio Certificate and Endorsement

3.1 Applicants should complete the appropriate application form (see Note below), sign the Declaration of Secrecy, and submit them in person to the address shown in paragraph 6.1 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) medical fitness certificate;
- (d) evidence of having received approved basic training or instruction in the ancillary requirements of the STCW Code Section : A-VI/1-1 to A-VI/1-4 as detailed in paragraph 2.1 (e) above ; and
- (e) (i) evidence of passing an approved STCW 95 GMDSS course ; or  
(ii) a non-STCW 95 GMDSS radio operator's certificate with evidence that the training under STCW Code Section A-IV/2 has been met as detailed in paragraph 2.1 (c) above.

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.

Note :-

Application for Hong Kong STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificates with endorsement or certificate endorsement revalidation as detailed in paragraph 2.1 should use form no : OFTA A 215 (for Radio Electronic Certificates) and form no : OFTA A 216 (for General Operator's Certificate or Restricted Operator's Certificate). The forms may be downloaded from the website of the Office of the Telecommunications Authority at : <http://www.ofta.gov.hk>

#### 4. Application fee

4.1 The issue fees are listed as follows:

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
Endorsement of certificate	HK\$160
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 TA 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. Enquiries

- 6.1 Enquiries relating to Radio Certificate and Endorsement applications should be made to:

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

Tel : +(852) 2961 6608  
Fax : +(852) 2803 5113  
Telex : 70618 TAHK HX  
E-mail : [maritime@ofta.gov.hk](mailto:maritime@ofta.gov.hk)

Office of the Telecommunications Authority  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
August 2001

**Office of the Telecommunications Authority**  
**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) will be fully implemented on 1 February 2002. In accordance with Regulation I/2 and Regulation I/10 of STCW 95, a seafarer manning a radio station on a Hong Kong registered ship has to hold either an appropriate Hong Kong issued radio certificate or a certificate of equivalent competency with an endorsement in conformity with the STCW 95 format and requirements. GMDSS Radio Certificates of Competency and Authority To Operate (ATO) previously issued under STCW 78 will become ineffective from 1 February 2002.
- 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 (paragraphs 6 to 8 in the Annex of HKMSN No. 1042 refers).
- 2.2 The Hong Kong administration is currently in correspondence with the administration of the countries listed in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 below for the signing of undertaking, which is a prerequisite for the recognition of certificates under Reg. I/10 of STCW 95. The date for the issue of STCW 95 CoEC and endorsement to applicants holding STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificates issued by individual countries listed in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 below would depend on the signing of undertakings with the countries concerned, and will be announced separately by the Marine Department.

*Issue of Full Term Certificate of Equivalent Competency and Endorsement*

2.3 Subject to paragraph 2.2 above, holders of STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificates issued by an Administration in the list below will be recognized for the issue of a 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 depending on whichever is the shorter :

Australia	Bangladesh
Canada	China, Peoples' Republic of
Denmark	France
India	Ireland, Republic of
Korea, Republic of	Netherlands
New Zealand	Norway
Pakistan	Poland
Singapore	South Africa
United Kingdom	

*Issue of Short Term Certificate of Equivalent Competency and Endorsement*

2.4 Holders of STCW 95 GMDSS radio certificate issued by the following countries with one year sea service after obtaining their radio certificate would be eligible for 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 :

Philippines	Liberia
Croatia	Sri Lanka
Panama	Indonesia
Ukraine	Russia

2.5 A Validation Panel will carry out an assessment on the standards of the certificates and endorsement issued by the countries in para. 2.4 to resolve whether the holders of these certificates could be issued with a full term CoEC and endorsement in future.

2.6 If the assessment of the certificates against which the short term CoEC are issued cannot be completed upon the expiry of the 12 months' validity period, then the holders of the CoECs and endorsements may apply for revalidation of the CoEC and endorsement for another 12 months (subject to the validity of their original certificates) on condition that they can produce satisfactory proof of their continuous employment on a Hong Kong registered ship.

### 3. Procedure for application

3.1 Applicants should complete the appropriate application form (see Note below), sign the Declaration of Secrecy, and submit them in person to the address shown in paragraph 6.1 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) GMDSS radio operator's certificate;
- (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.

Note : Application for CoEC with endorsement or certificate endorsement revalidation as detailed in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.6 should use form no : OFTA A 295.

### 4. Application fee

4.1 The issue fees are listed as follows:

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| (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 TA 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. Enquiries

- 6.1 Enquiries relating to CoEC and Endorsement applications should be made to:

Maritime Services Sub-section,	Tel : +(852) 2961 6608
Office of the Telecommunications Authority,	Fax : +(852) 2803 5113
36/F, Wu Chung House	Telex : 70618 TAHK HX
213, Queen's Road East	E-mail : maritime@ofta.gov.hk
Wan Chai	
Hong Kong	

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

Senior Surveyor	Tel : +(852) 2852 4368
Seafarers' Certification Section	Fax : +(852) 2541 6754
Marine Department	Telex : 64553 MARHQ HX
3/F., Harbour Building	E-mail : ssexam@netvigator.com
38 Pier Road, Central	
Hong Kong	