

**GUIDELINES FOR THE ISSUE OF
RESTRICTED CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY IN
RADIOTELEPHONY (LONG RANGE)/(SHORT RANGE) AND
AUTHORITY TO OPERATE (ATO)**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 These guidelines are issued pursuant to Section 6(D)(1) of the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106). The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) was developed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the purpose of providing the maritime community with effective and automated distress reporting and improved maritime communications. Although GMDSS is only mandatory for ships which are subject to the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention, increasing number of non-SOLAS ships such as local crafts and pleasure vessels are found equipped with GMDSS equipment on voluntary basis after the full implementation of GMDSS in February 1999.
- 1.2 To facilitate personnel who are interested in the operation of GMDSS equipment to have the opportunity to acquire relevant knowledge and competency in GMDSS, the Communications Authority (CA) has recognised training courses offered by the Express Marine Electronics Company Limited, Marine Department Training Centre, Maritime Services Training Institute and Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club. An attendee passing the examination of a relevant recognised training course¹ may apply to the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) for the issue of a Restricted Certificate of Competency in Radiotelephony (Long Range)/(Short Range) and an ATO for operation of GMDSS equipment onboard non-SOLAS ships.

2 Criteria for the Issue of Restricted Certificate of Competency in Radiotelephony (Long Range)/(Short Range) and ATO

- 2.1 To be eligible for the issue of Restricted Certificate of Competency in Radiotelephony (Long Range)/(Short Range) and ATO, the applicant should –
- (a) be over 18 years of age; and
 - (b) have completed a Restricted Certificate of Competency in Radiotelephony (Long Range)/(Short Range) training course approved by the CA and passed the examination.
- 2.2 The ATO shall be revalidated once every five years.

3 Procedure for Application for Restricted Certificate of Competency in Radiotelephony (Long Range)/(Short Range) and ATO

- 3.1 Applicants should complete the application form (available from <http://www.ofca.gov.hk>), sign the Declaration of Secrecy in the Operation of Radiocommunications Apparatus (available from <http://www.ofca.gov.hk>), and submit them to the OFCA together with the original and/or photocopy of the following

¹ The list of the recognised training courses is available from OFCA upon request.

supporting documents by any of the methods as stated in the application form.

- (a) Passport or personal identification document(s); and
- (b) evidence of passing an approved Restricted Certificate of Competency in Radiotelephony (Long Range)/(Short Range) training course.

4 Fee

4.1 The issue fees are listed as follows -

Restricted Certificate of Competency in Radiotelephony (Long Range)	HK\$120
Restricted Certificate of Competency in Radiotelephony (Short Range)	HK\$120
ATO	HK\$160
Revalidation of ATO	HK\$160

4.2 The required fees can be paid by any of the methods specified in the application form.

5 Rejection of application

5.1 The CA reserves the right to reject any application if it is not entirely satisfied that the applicant has met the criteria for application.

6 Enquiries

6.1 Enquiries about the details of the recognised training courses should be made to the Express Marine Electronics Company Limited (website: <http://www.eme.com.hk/index.php?route=common/home>), Marine Department Training Centre (website: <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/others/course.html>), Maritime Services Training Institute (website: <http://www.msti.edu.hk/>) or Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (website: <http://www.rhkyc.org.hk>).

6.2 Enquiries about the application for Restricted Certificate of Competency in Radiotelephony (Long Range)/ (Short Range) and ATO should be made to -

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

Tel : +852 2961 6608
Fax : +852 3155 0914
E-mail : maritime@ofca.gov.hk