

### **GMDSS Assessment Requirements and Arrangements**

Trainers and assessors are required to be qualified in accordance with the requirements of Regulation A1/6 of the STCW Code.

Training centres seeking approval will need to demonstrate availability of suitable facilities for practical, general and theoretical instruction, appropriately equipped with teaching and learning aids and designed to enable each learner to fully engage in the learning process and shall have a Quality Standards/Management System in accordance with STCW Convention regulation 1/8.

Where a written assessment or a practical examination is required, the same person should not carry out the training and assessment of the programme. Where two people are acting as trainers, they may alternate between trainer and assessor.

Assessment shall be organised so that learners can, through operation and examination assessments, show that they meet the outcomes of the course criteria and show that they meet the competencies stipulated as identified in the tables in Annex D of this MIN and in accordance with the methods for demonstrating competence shown in column 3 of the tables and the criteria for evaluating competence in column 4.

A system of formative assessments and timely feedback will be determined by the centre in line with the requirements of the MCA. It is suggested that formative assessments are undertaken at appropriate times throughout the course to determine readiness of each learner for the examination of competence.

All assessments shall be formally documented and made available for verification audits.

There is a wide range of simulators available commercially and through GMDSS providers for training in GOC and ROC. It is essential for training trainers to carefully assess the type and suitability of these simulators before incorporating them into the course. The selected simulators must offer appropriate functionality to meet the training criteria outlined in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Course Criteria.

## **Assessment requirements**

1. The principal aim of assessment is to ascertain whether the candidate achieves the stated objectives of the training to a level which, in the opinion of the assessor(s) is considered satisfactory. The assessor(s) must evaluate the performance of each candidate progressively over the entire duration of the training. In most cases, areas to improve will be highlighted during de-briefing/feedback sessions and due account must be made of any subsequent improvement in performance.

2. It is vital that a failed assessment should be considered where a candidate does not show a significant improvement in performance after initially reacting to potentially dangerous situations in an unacceptable manner. The certificate should be withheld until satisfactory re-training and assessment have been undertaken. Relevant weak points must be discussed between the assessor(s) and the candidate concerned.

3. In assessing the achievement of competences and knowledge, understanding and proficiency (KUP), assessors should be guided by the criteria for evaluating competences in column 4 of Table A-IV/2 of the STCW Code and the learning outcomes detailed. The purpose of evaluation and assessment is to:

- .1 Assist trainee learning.
- .2 Identify trainees' strengths and areas to improve.
- .3 Assess the effectiveness of an instructional strategy.
- .4 Assess and improve the effectiveness of curriculum programmes.
- .5 Assess and improve teaching effectiveness.

4. The assessment system, methods and practice shall be valid, authentic, current, sufficient and reliable; this is often known as VACSR – 'Valid Assessments Create Standard Results'.

- Valid – the work is relevant to the standards/criteria being assessed
- Authentic – the work has been produced solely by the learner
- Current – the work is still relevant at the time of assessment
- Sufficient – the work covers all the standards/criteria
- Reliable – the work is consistent across all learners, over time and at the required level

## **Qualification of trainers and assessors**

Training and assessment must be undertaken by persons qualified in accordance with Regulation I/6 and Section A-I/6 of the STCW Convention and Code 1978, as amended.

### **The trainer shall:**

1. Hold a minimum of UK STCW Deck Certificate of Competency with appropriate GMDSS certificate to the level of the course. Other appropriately qualified personnel may carry out GMDSS level training at the discretion of the MCA; or

hold a minimum of STCW Deck Certificate of Competency from a country which the UK accepts for the issue of a flag state endorsement and supplemented by UK GMDSS where required.

2. Have a knowledge of instructional techniques, training methods and training practice at least to the level of IMO Training for trainers

3. Understand assessment methods and practice

4. Have practical instructional and assessment experience

5. Understand the specific objectives of the training

6. Have specific training in the relevant theory, use and operation of GMDSS radio and satellite equipment

All AMERC approved trainers and assessors will retain their approval subject to currency of their knowledge and continuous professional development (CPD) undertaken each year.

Trainers and assessor should have thorough knowledge of the simulators used in the delivery and assessment process. The training institution is responsible for supplying the appointed assessor with technical details and user manuals for each simulator intended for training and examination purposes.

Curriculum vitae of trainers and assessors shall be submitted in the format provided by the MCA which complies with UK General Data Protection Act 2018/GDPR. A copy of the form can be requested by email to [stc.courses@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:stc.courses@mcga.gov.uk).

Appointed assessor should have experience in delivering the course and thorough knowledge of the simulators used in the examination process. The training institution is responsible for supplying the appointed assessor with technical details and user manuals for each simulator intended for training and examination purposes