



THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE ADMINISTRATION

No-363/421, Corner of Merchant & Theinbyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar

E-mail: dma@motc.gov.mm, dma.myan@gmail.com

P.O Box: 194

Tel: +95-1-397640

Fax: +95-1-397641

Date: 7 February 2025

Marine Guidance (1/2025)

AMENDMENTS TO MARINE GUIDANCE (6/2021)

Applicable to: Maritime Training Institutes, Maritime Training Centres, Instructors, Assessors, Examiners and Seafarers


- References:**
- (a) Marine Guidance (6/2021) - Guidance for Maritime Education & Training, Examination and Certification for Seafarers
 - (b) Notification (4/2016) - Guidance for Refresher, Updating and Revalidation training requirements
 - (c) Rules for granting of Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency of Masters, Officers and Ratings, as amended
 - (d) International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention), 1978, as amended

Summary

This Marine Guidance provides the system and syllabus of Refresher and Updating Courses and Revalidation Courses for Deck Officers and GMDSS Radio Operators - Certificate of Competency as required by the STCW Convention, Regulation I/11 and the STCW Code Section A-I/11.

1. Every master, deck officer, and radio operator, who is serving at sea or intends to return to sea after a period ashore, shall, in order to continue to qualify for seagoing service, be required, at intervals not exceeding five years, in accordance with section A-I/11 of the STCW Code, to establish continued professional competence.
2. Continued professional competence as required by paragraph 1 shall be established by an approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
 - (a) twelve months in total during the preceding five years; or
 - (b) three months in total during the preceding six months immediately prior to revalidating the certificate.
3. Every master, deck officer, and radio operator who has had an approved seagoing service as prescribed in paragraph 2, shall successfully complete the refresher and updating courses as follows:
 - (a) for Deck Officers - Certificate of Competency Refresher and Updating Course as per Annexes (PR.1.1) and (PR.1.2);
 - (b) for GMDSS Radio Operator - Certificate of Competency Refresher and Updating Course as per Annexes (PR.13.1) and (PR.13.2).

4. Every master, deck officer, and radio operator, who has not had an approved seagoing service as prescribed in paragraph 2, shall successfully complete the revalidation courses as follows:
 - (a) for Deck Officers - Certificate of Competency Revalidation Course as per Annexes (PR.12.1) and (PR.12.2);
 - (b) for GMDSS Radio Operator - Certificate of Competency Revalidation Course as per Annexes (PR.14.1) and (PR.14.2).
5. This Marine Guidance shall enter into force on the date of issue.
6. Marine Guidance (14/2024) is superseded by this Marine Guidance.



Dr. Ko Ko Naing
Director General (Acting)



**System of Maritime Education & Training, Examination, and Certification for
Deck Officers - Certificate of Competency
Refresher and Updating Course
(STCW Convention 1978 as amended, Regulation I/11 &
STCW Code Section A-I/11)**

The Refresher and Updating Course for Deck Officers (Certificate of Competency), who are serving at sea or intend to return to sea after a period ashore in order to continue to qualify for seagoing service at intervals not exceeding five years, consists of theoretical lectures and assessments at the Approved Maritime Training Centres.

1. Every candidate for certification shall have successfully completed the refresher and updating course conducted at the Approved Maritime Training Centres and followed up by an Assessment to meet the standard of competency specified in section A-I/11, paragraph 2 of the STCW Code.
2. The training and assessment shall be administered, supervised, and monitored by the Department of Marine Administration (DMA).
3. The DMA shall issue the Deck Officers-Certificate of Competency to the candidates who have successfully completed the refresher and updating course as well as holding the respective valid Certificates of Proficiency as required by the STCW Convention and STCW Code.

**Teaching System and Method of Demonstration for
Deck Officers - Certificate of Competency
Refresher and Updating Course**

Subjects	Teaching Hours	Demonstrating competence		
		Method	Hours	% Pass
Amendments in the last 5 years and future regulations	1.00	Assessment (MTC)	1	50
Amendments and Changes to important codes recommendations and guidelines	0.50			
Latest developments in machinery installations on new ships	0.50			
Advancements related to improvement in design and materials of marine equipment	0.50			
IMO strategy to reduce GHG, MEPC72	0.50			
IMO emission limit	0.25			
New National Emission Control Area and methods	0.25			
Total	3.50			

**Syllabus of Maritime Education & Training, Examination and Certification for
Deck Officers - Certificate of Competency
Refresher and Updating Course
(STCW Convention, Regulation I/11)**

1. Latest and upcoming changes in IMO and ILO conventions

- 1.1. International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS 1974)
- 1.2. Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS PROT 1988)
- 1.3. Codes and other instruments made mandatory under SOLAS
- 1.4. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as Modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL)
- 1.5. Codes made mandatory under MARPOL 73/78
- 1.6. International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW 1978)
- 1.7. Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
 - International Medical Guide for Ships
 - Medical First Aid Guide for Use in Accidents Involving Dangerous Goods
 - International Maritime Training Guide

2. New technology developments

- 2.1. Latest developments in machinery installations on new ships being constructed across the world, which may include green technologies and new technologies adopted for propulsion and Auxiliary systems
- 2.2. Advancements related to improvement in the design and materials of marine equipment

3. Environmental pollution prevention

- 3.1. Port State control and Flag State inspection, Concentrated Inspection Campaigns
- 3.2. Areas for improvement to avoid detentions
- 3.3. IMO strategy to reduce GHG, MEPC 72
- 3.4. IMO emission limit (Tier III)
- 3.5. New National Emission Control Area and Methods

**System of Maritime Education & Training, Examination and Certification for
GMDSS Radio Operator - Certificate of Competency
Refresher and Updating Course
(STCW Convention, Regulation I/11 & IV/2)**

The Refresher and Updating Course for GMDSS Radio Operators (Certificate of Competency), who are serving at sea or intend to return to sea after a period ashore in order to continue to qualify for seagoing service at intervals of not exceeding five years, consists of theoretical lectures and assessments at the Approved Maritime Training Centres.

1. Every candidate for certification shall have successfully completed the refresher and updating course conducted at the Approved Maritime Training Centres and followed up by an Assessment to meet the standard of competency specified in section A-I/11, paragraph 2 of the STCW Code.
2. The training and assessment shall be administered, supervised, and monitored by the Department of Marine Administration (DMA).
3. The DMA shall issue the GMDSS Radio Operator (Certificate of Competency) to the candidate who has successfully completed the refresher and updating course, holding the respective valid Certificates of Proficiency as required by the STCW Convention and the Code.

**Teaching System and Method of Demonstration for
GMDSS Radio Operator - Certificate of Competency
Refresher and Updating Course**

Subjects	Teaching Hours	Demonstrating competence		
		Method	Hours	% Pass
Basic concept of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) & features of	0.75	Written Assessment (MTC)	0.5	60
Amendment of SOLAS Convention	1.50			
Survival Craft Radio Equipment: Basic Operational procedures, characteristics, specifications and routine testing	0.75			
Total	3.00			

**Syllabus of Maritime Education & Training, Examination and Certification for
GMDSS Radio Operator - Certificate of Competency
Refresher and Updating Course
(STCW Convention, Regulation I/11 & IV/2)**

- 1. Basic concept of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) & features of the Maritime Mobile Service**
 - (a) GMDSS concept using VHF / MF / HF DSC and R/T as a means of distress alert, urgency, safety, and routine for establishing communication to a coast and ship station
 - (b) Frequency, bands, and channelization presently used in GMDSS
- 2. Amendment of SOLAS Convention**
 - (a) Regulations of the Chapter IV (Radiocommunications)
 - (b) Recognized Mobile Satellite Service (RMSS) System Concept
- 3. Survival Craft Radio Equipment: Basic Operational procedures, characteristics, specifications and routine testing**
 - (a) Portable (immersion proof) VHF radios
 - (b) Search and Rescue Radar Transponders (Radar SART)
 - (c) AIS SART
 - (d) Satellite EPIRBs

**System of Maritime Education & Training, Examination and Certification for
Deck Officers - Certificate of Competency
Revalidation Course
(STCW Convention 1978 as amended, Regulation I/11 &
STCW Code Section A-I/11)**

The Revalidation Course for Deck Officers (Certificate of Competency), who have not had an approved seagoing service, consists of theoretical lectures and assessments at the Approved Maritime Training Centres.

1. Every candidate for certification shall have successfully completed the revalidation course conducted at the Approved Maritime Training Centres and followed up by an Assessment to meet the standard of competency specified in section A-I/11, paragraph 2 of the STCW Code.
2. The training and assessment shall be administered, supervised, and monitored by the Department of Marine Administration (DMA).
3. The DMA shall issue the Deck Officers - Certificate of Competency to the candidates who have successfully completed the revalidation course as well as holding the respective valid Certificates of Proficiency as required by the STCW Convention and STCW Code.

**Teaching System and Method of Demonstration for
Deck Officers - Certificate of Competency
Revalidation Course**

Subjects	Teaching Hours	Demonstrating competence		
		Method	Hours	% Pass
Amendments in the last 10 years and future regulations	3.00	Assessment (MTC)	1	50
Amendments and Changes to important codes recommendations and guidelines	3.00			
Latest developments in machinery installations on new ships	3.00			
Advancements related to improvement in the design and materials of marine equipment	6.00			
IMO strategy to reduce GHG, MEPC 72	3.00			
IMO emission limit				
New National Emission Control Area and Methods				
Modern ENAs; e-Navigation;	3.00			
Law of the Sea	3.00			
Merchant Shipping Act	3.00			
Ship-terminal communications; Industrial requirements- Vetting CDI Ship-shore safety checklist	3.00			
Total	30.00			

**Syllabus of Maritime Education & Training, Examination and Certification for
Deck Officers – Certificate of Competency
Revalidation Course
(STCW Convention, Regulation I/11)**

Latest and upcoming changes in IMO and ILO conventions

- 1.1. International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS 1974)
- 1.2. Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS PROT 1988)
- 1.3. Codes and other instruments made mandatory under SOLAS
 - 1.3.1. Use of the safety-related provisions of the Polar Code mandatory
 - 1.3.2. Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended
 - 1.3.3. Code for Ships Operating in Polar Water (Polar Code)
 - 1.3.4. Amendments to the International Code for the Enhanced Programme of Inspections during Surveys of Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers, 2011 (2011 ESP Code)
 - 1.3.5. Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended
 - 1.3.6. Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and Rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear
 - 1.3.7. Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended: Protection against noise, boiler space foam type extinguisher
 - 1.3.8. Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended: Performance standard for protective coatings for dedicated seawater ballast tanks in all types of ships and double-side skin spaces of bulk carriers
 - 1.3.9. Amendments to the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code: Launching and Embarkation appliance
 - 1.3.10. Amendments to the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code: Survival Craft, Launching and Embarkation Appliances
 - 1.3.11. Amendments to the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974: IGF code and ship using low Sulphur
 - 1.3.12. International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or other Low-flashing Point Fuels (IGF Code)
 - 1.3.13. Amendments to the International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or other Low-flashing Point Fuels (IGF Code)
 - 1.3.14. Amendments to the International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or other Low-flashing Point Fuels (IGF Code)
 - 1.3.15. Amendments to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code
 - 1.3.16. Adoption of International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code
 - 1.3.17. Amendments to the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code
 - 1.3.18. Areas for improvement to avoid detentions. (Machinery breakdown/ personal injury)

- 1.3.19. International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention (International Safety Management (ISM) Code): Guidelines on Maritime Cyber Risk Management
- 1.4. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as Modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL)
- 1.5. Codes made mandatory under MARPOL 73/78
 - 1.5.1. Guidelines for the development of a Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP)
 - 1.5.2. Guidelines for Port State Control under MARPOL Annex VI Chapter 3
 - 1.5.3. Amendments to the Annex of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as amended by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto: Amendments to MARPOL Annex I
 - 1.5.4. Amendments to the Annex of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto: Amendments to MARPOL Annex V
 - 1.5.5. Amendments to the Annex of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto: Amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II and V (Electronic Record Books)
 - 1.5.6. Amendments to the Annex of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto: Amendments to MARPOL Annex II (Cargo residues and tank washings of persistent floating products)
 - 1.5.7. Amendments to the Annex of the Protocol of 1997 to amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto: Topic 1.5; Codes made mandatory under MARPOL 73/78: 2016 amendments (MARPOL Annex VI, regulations 13)
 - 1.5.8. Amendments to the NOx Technical Code 2008: Nitrogen Oxides from Marine Diesel Engines
 - 1.5.9. Amendments to the Annex of the Protocol of 1997 to amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto: Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI Data collection system for fuel consumption
 - 1.5.10. Amendments to The Annex of the Protocol of 1997 to amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto: Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, Designation of the Baltic Sea and the North Sea Emission Control Areas for NOx Tier III control) (Information to be included in the bunker delivery note)
 - 1.5.11. Amendments to the Annex of the Protocol of 1997 to amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto: Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, ECAs and required EEDI for ro-ro cargo ships and ro-ro passenger ships
 - 1.5.12. Amendments to the Annex of the Protocol of 1997 to amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto: Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, Prohibition on the carriage of non-compliant fuel oil for combustion purposes for propulsion or operation on board a ship

- 1.5.13. Amendments to the Annex of the Protocol of 1997 to amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, Electronic Record Books and EEDI regulations for ice-strengthened ships
- 1.5.14. Amendments to the Technical Code on Control of Emission of Nitrogen Oxides from Marine Diesel Engines (Nox Technical Code 2008) (Electronic Record Books and Certification requirements for SCR systems)
- 1.5.15. 2019 Guidelines for On Board Sampling for the Verification of the Sulphur Content of the Fuel Oil Used on Board Ships
- 1.5.16. 2019 Guidelines for Consistent Implementation of the 0.50% Sulphur Limit under MARPOL Annex VI
- 1.5.17. CIMAC WG7 Guidelines for Marine fuel handling in connection to stability and compatibility
- 1.5.18. IMO emission limit (Tier III)
- 1.5.19. New National Emission Control Area and methods
- 1.6. International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW 1978)
 - 1.6.1. Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended: IGF training (Basic and Advanced)
 - 1.6.2. Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended
- 1.7. Maritime Labour Convention 2006
 - 1.7.1. International Medical Guide for Ships
 - 1.7.2. Medical First Aid Guide for Use in Accidents Involving Dangerous Goods
 - 1.7.3. International Maritime Training Guide
 - 1.7.4. The 2016 amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
 - 1.7.5. The 2018 amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
- 1.8 Merchant Shipping Act
- 1.9 Law of the Sea

New technology developments

- 2.1. Latest developments in machinery installations on new ships being constructed across the world, which may include green technologies and new technologies adopted for propulsion and Auxiliary systems
- 2.2. Advancements related to improvement in the design and materials of marine equipment.
- 2.3. Modern ENAs; e-Navigation;
- 2.4. Ship-terminal communications;
- 2.5. Industrial requirements – Vetting CDI
- 2.6. Ship-shore safety checklist
- 2.7. Latest developments in machinery installations on new ships being constructed across the world, which may include green technologies and new technologies adopted for propulsion and Auxiliary systems. [14 Technologies to Make the Ultimate Green Ship]
- 2.8. Advancements related to improvement in the design and materials of marine equipment.

- Development in Automation/instrumentation and Control system
- Development in Tier - III Engines and Electronically controlled camless engine
- Dual fuel engine arrangement and safety
- Using Low Sulphur fuel oil and the problem it may occur

Environmental pollution prevention

- 3.1. Port State control and Flag State inspection, Concentrated Inspection Campaigns
- 3.2. Areas for improvement to avoid detentions
- 3.3. IMO strategy to reduce GHG, MEPC72
- 3.4. IMO emission limit (Tier III)
- 3.5. New National Emission Control Area and Methods

**System of Maritime Education & Training, Examination, and Certification for
GMDSS Radio Operator – Certificate of Competency
Revalidation Course
(STCW Convention, Regulation I/11 & IV/2)**

The Revalidation Course for Revalidation of GMDSS Radio Operators (Certificate of Competency) who have not had an approved seagoing service, consists of theoretical lectures and assessments at the Approved Maritime Training Centres.

1. Every candidate for certification shall have successfully completed the Revalidation course conducted at the Approved Maritime Training Centres and followed up by an Assessment to meet the standard of competency specified in the STCW Convention, Regulation I/11 and the STCW Code Section A-I/11.
2. The training and assessment shall be administered, supervised, and monitored by the Department of Marine Administration (DMA).
3. The DMA shall issue the GMDSS Radio Operator (Certificate of Competency) to the candidates who have successfully completed the Revalidation course as well as holding the respective valid Certificates of Proficiency as required by the STCW Convention and STCW Code.

**Teaching System and Method of Demonstration for
GMDSS Radio Operator - Certificate of Competency
Revalidation Course**

Subjects	Teaching Hours	Demonstrating competence		
		Method	Hours	% Pass
General principles and basic features of the Maritime Mobile Service	2.50	Written Assessment (MTC)	1	60
Concept of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)	3.50			
Practical Knowledge, Operational Characteristics and ability to use the GMDSS sub-system equipment of a ship station	8.00			
Distress, Safety and routine Communication procedures in the GMDSS	6.00			
Total	20.0			

**Syllabus of Maritime Education & Training, Examination and Certification for
GMDSS Radio Operator – Certificate of Competency
Revalidation Course
(STCW Convention, Regulation I/11 & IV/2)**

1. General Principles and Basic Features of the Maritime Mobile Service

- (a) Radiotelephone procedures
- (b) Types of communications
Distress, urgency and safety communication, public correspondence, port operations, ship movement, inter-ship and onboard communications
- (c) Types of stations
Ship stations, coast stations, Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs), pilot stations, port stations and vessel traffic control stations
- (d) Basic knowledge of frequency, bands, and channelization for VHF/MF/HF/Inmarsat while covering basic propagation limitations.

2. Concept of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)

- (a) System Concept
 - (i) GMDSS concept using VHF/MF/HF DSC as a means of distress alert, urgency, safety and routine for establishing communication to a coast and ship station
 - (ii) MMSI concept in relation to DSC and EGC
 - (iii) GMDSS coverage areas
- (b) Regulations
 - (i) Definition of Sea Areas for A1, A2, A3 & A4
 - (ii) Distress Watch Keeping on VHF DSC channel 70, VHF channel 16 and MF 2182 kHz
 - (iii) Equipment carriage requirement for Sea Area A1, A2, A3 and A4

3. Practical Knowledge, Operational Characteristics, and Ability to use the GMDSS sub-system equipment of a Ship station

- (a) Ship Station Equipment
 - (i) VHF/MF/HF DSC watch receiver/modem, classes and types of DSC
 - (ii) VHF/MF/HF R/T transceiver/transmitters and receivers: channels, controls, usage and routine testing
 - (iii) DSC call categories, distress, urgency, safety, ship's business and routine traffic
 - (iv) Inmarsat classes, EGC, distress, controls, operation, etc.
 - (v) Call telecommand and traffic information: distress alerts, other calls, working channel information and acknowledgment of calls
 - (vi) Record keeping (logs, etc.)
 - (vii) Cancellation of false alerts
 - (viii) Operational techniques, antenna adjustments, reserve sources of power and station maintenance

- (b) Survival Craft Radio Equipment: Basic Operational procedures, characteristics, specifications and routine testing
 - (i) Portable (immersion proof) VHF radios
 - (ii) Search and Rescue Radar Transponders (Radar SART)
 - (iii) AIS SART
 - (iv) Satellite EPIRBs
- (c) NAVTEX
 - (i) Maritime Safety Information (MSI) for basic NAVTEX system concept and NAVAREAs
 - (ii) NAVTEX receiver operational characteristics, set-up procedures, and message format

4. Distress, Safety, and Routine Communication Procedures in the GMDSS

- (a) Distress, Urgency and Safety Communications
 - (i) VHF/MF/HF DSC Distress alert, sending receiving, and acknowledging, cancellation of distress message, distress relay
 - (ii) VHF/MF/HF DSC urgency, safety calls and subsequent R/T traffic
 - (iii) On-scene communication and SAR operations
 - (iv) R/T Distress subsequent traffic, Urgency and Safety communications
- (b) Operational Procedures for General Communications
 - (i) VHF/ MF / HF calling and replying frequencies
 - (ii) Using DSC to establish an initial call
 - (iii) Transmission and reception of routine R/T communications