

Telecommunications (Certificates of Competency for Ship Station Operators) Regulations

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT (CHAPTER 323, SECTION 74)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY FOR SHIP STATION OPERATORS) REGULATIONS

Rg 1

G.N. No. S 44/2002

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Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Telecommunications (Certificates of Competency for Ship Station Operators) Regulations.

Definitions

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“certificate of competency” means a certificate of competency in radio-communications issued under regulation 3;

“Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union” means the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union signed at Geneva in 1992 and includes every revision or modification thereof to which the Government is a party;

- “International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea” means the International Convention signed at London on 1st November 1974 and the Regulations annexed thereto, or a subsequent International Convention relating to the safety of life at sea to which the Government is a party and every regulation which may be annexed thereto;
- “radio operator” means a person holding an appropriate certificate issued under regulation 3 or an appropriate certificate recognised under regulation 12;
- “Radio Regulations” means the Radio Regulations annexed to the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union and includes every revision or modification thereof to which the Government has ratified or accepted;
- “ship” has the same meaning as in the Merchant Shipping Act (Cap. 179) and includes an oil rig;
- “ship station” means a station located on board a ship which is not permanently moored;
- “station” means a transmitter, receiver, a combination of transmitter and receiver or any accessory thereto which is used or intended to be used for radio-communication;
- “STCW Code” means the Seafarer’s Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code adopted by the 1995 Conference of Practice to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978, and any amendment thereto which has come into force and has been accepted by the Government;
- “STCW Convention” means the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978, as amended on 7th July 1995, and any amendment thereto which has come into force and has been accepted by the Government.

Issue of certificate of competency

3.—(1) The Authority may issue a certificate of competency in radio-communications to a person on being satisfied, after an examination referred to in regulation 5, that he is qualified to hold the certificate of competency under these Regulations.

(2) The certificate of competency shall be in the form set out in the First Schedule and graded as follows:

- (a) General Operator’s Certificate of Competency; and

- (b) Restricted Operator's Certificate of Competency.

Declaration to preserve secrecy

4. The holder of a certificate of competency shall make a declaration to the Authority, in such form as the Authority may require, to preserve the secrecy of correspondence which he may receive in the execution of his duties in such capacity.

Examinations

5.—(1) The Authority may at any time, but not less than twice a year, hold such examination for the grades of certificate of competency set out in regulation 3(2) as the Authority considers necessary.

(2) A candidate for an examination for a certificate of competency must —

- (a) have attained the age of 18 years;
- (b) furnish to the Authority 2 passport size photographs of himself and such personal particulars as the Authority may require; and
- (c) satisfy the Authority as to his medical fitness (including eyesight and hearing), and hold a certificate issued by a medical practitioner registered under the Medical Registration Act (Cap. 174) attesting to his medical fitness.

(3) The syllabus and other details of an examination for each grade of certificate of competency may be obtained from the Authority on a written application made to the Chief Executive.

Fees

6. The fees for —

- (a) an examination for a certificate of competency;
- (b) the issue of a certificate of competency; and
- (c) the issue of a duplicate of a certificate of competency,

shall be as specified in the Second Schedule.

General Operator's Certificate of Competency

7. In order to qualify for a General Operator's Certificate of Competency, a candidate shall give proof to the Authority by examination that he —

- (a) has detailed practical knowledge of the operation of all the sub-systems

and equipment of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System;

- (b) has the ability to send and receive messages correctly by radio-telephone and by direct-printing telegraphy;
- (c) has detailed knowledge of the Radio Regulations relating to radio-communications, and knowledge of the documents relating to charges for radio-communications, and of the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea relating to radio-communications;
- (d) has adequate knowledge of the English language as to be able to express himself satisfactorily both orally and in writing; and
- (e) satisfies the standard of competence specified in section A-IV/2 of the STCW Code.

Authority of holder of General Operator's Certificate of Competency

8. The holder of a General Operator's Certificate of Competency is authorised to operate the radio-communication services of a ship station which is —

- (a) licensed under the Telecommunications (Radio-communication) Regulations (Rg 5); and
- (b) equipped with radio-communication apparatus in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Radio Regulations for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System.

Restricted Operator's Certificate of Competency

9. In order to qualify for a Restricted Operator's Certificate of Competency, a candidate shall give proof to the Authority by examination that he —

- (a) has practical knowledge of the operation of all the sub-systems and equipment of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System which is required while the ship is sailing within the range of Very High Frequency coast stations;
- (b) has the ability to send and receive messages correctly by radio-telephone;
- (c) has knowledge of the Radio Regulations relating to radiotelephony communications and specifically of the part of the Radio Regulations relating to the safety of life;
- (d) has elementary knowledge of the English language as to be able to express himself satisfactorily both orally and in writing; and
- (e) satisfies the standard of competence specified in section A-IV/2 of the