

Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW) Guidance: IV – Radio Operators

Chapter IV – Radio Communication and Radio Operators

All STCW Radio Operator endorsements fall with Chapter IV categories as listed below. Applicants for original or renewal endorsement as GMDSS Operator must submit a Coast Guard approved course for GMDSS Operator. A GMDSS Radio Operator's License issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is not required for issuance of STCW but is required for employment as a GMDSS Operator. 46 CFR Part 11, Subpart F provides the requirements for Radio Officers.

Applicants for original or renewal endorsement as GMDSS At-sea Maintainer must submit a Coast Guard approved course for GMDSS Operator or a completion of a training program that covers the scope and content of the training outlined in Section B-IV/2 of the STCW Code. The program does not have to be US Coast guard approved but it must meet Section B-IV/2 of the STCW Code. A GMDSS At-sea Maintainer License issued by the FCC is required for issuance of STCW and for employment as a GMDSS At-sea Maintainer. (See 46 CFR 12.623(c) Hold a valid Federal Communications Commission (FCC) certificate as GMDSS at-sea maintainer.) 46 CFR Part 12, Subpart F provides the requirements for Radio Officers.

STCW Radio Communication Endorsements:

Regulation IV/2 GMDSS Operator

Regulation IV/2 GMDSS At-sea Maintainer

Additional Guidance:

The above are STCW capacities only and do not entitle the applicant for the national endorsement as Radio Officer.