

Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) For 5 days

23 – 27 November 2026
Lyon (France)

UK Training

PARTNER



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Introduction

The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System GMDSS is the internationally recognized framework established by the International Maritime Organization IMO to ensure reliable maritime communication for distress, urgency, safety, and routine operations. As global shipping continues to expand, effective maritime communication has become fundamental to protecting lives at sea, safeguarding vessels and cargo, supporting Search and Rescue SAR operations, and maintaining compliance with international maritime regulations.

This comprehensive 5-day Global Maritime Distress and Safety System GMDSS training course provides participants with an in-depth understanding of the operational, technical, and regulatory requirements of modern maritime communication systems. The program covers GMDSS architecture, sea area requirements, terrestrial and satellite communication systems, Digital Selective Calling DSC, maritime safety information services, emergency communication procedures, equipment operation, maintenance principles, and international communication standards.

Participants will develop the knowledge required to operate GMDSS communication equipment confidently, manage distress and safety communications effectively, comply with the requirements of IMO, SOLAS, and STCW, and strengthen operational readiness through internationally recognized maritime communication procedures. The course also provides the theoretical foundation required for professionals preparing for General Operator's Certificate GOC or Restricted Operator's Certificate ROC qualifications.

Course Objectives

By the end of this training course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the objectives, structure, and regulatory framework of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System GMDSS.
- Explain the roles of IMO, SOLAS, and STCW in maritime communication and safety.
- Identify GMDSS sea areas A1-A4 and their communication requirements.
- Operate VHF, MF, HF, Inmarsat, NAVTEX, EPIRB, and SART communication equipment.
- Apply Digital Selective Calling DSC procedures for distress, urgency, safety, and routine communications.
- Differentiate between terrestrial and satellite communication systems.
- Manage maritime safety information using NAVTEX, SafetyNET, and Enhanced Group Call EGC.
- Apply communication procedures during Search and Rescue SAR operations.
- Conduct routine equipment inspections, testing, and operational readiness checks.
- Maintain GMDSS documentation, records, and communication logbooks.
- Interpret international communication procedures and operational standards.
- Demonstrate competence required for safe and compliant maritime communication operations.

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Course Outlines

Day 1: GMDSS Framework, Maritime Regulations & Communication Systems

- Introduction to maritime communication and safety.
- Evolution and objectives of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System GMDSS.
- International maritime regulations: IMO, SOLAS, and STCW.
- GMDSS architecture and system components.
- GMDSS sea areas A1-A4 and equipment requirements.
- Shore-based communication infrastructure and Rescue Coordination Centers RCCs.
- Ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communication principles.
- Roles and responsibilities of GMDSS radio operators.

Day 2: Radio Communication, Digital Selective Calling & Satellite Systems

- Principles of VHF, MF, and HF radio communications.
- Radio frequencies, channels, and distress frequencies.
- Digital Selective Calling DSC operation and procedures.
- Distress, urgency, safety, and routine communication messages.
- DSC alert transmission, relay, acknowledgment, and cancellation procedures.
- Overview of Inmarsat communication services.
- EPIRB operation and registration requirements.
- Introduction to the Cospas-Sarsat satellite distress alerting system.

Day 3: Maritime Safety Information & Emergency Communications

- Maritime Safety Information MSI.
- NAVTEX operations and message management.
- SafetyNET and Enhanced Group Call EGC services.
- Weather forecasts and navigational warnings.
- Search and Rescue SAR communication procedures.
- Coordination with Rescue Coordination Centers RCCs.
- Operation of SART and AIS-SART equipment.
- Emergency communication procedures during maritime incidents.

Day 4: Equipment Operation, Maintenance & Operational Readiness

- GMDSS equipment configuration and operational checks.
- Power supply systems and emergency battery arrangements.
- Routine inspection and preventive maintenance.
- Equipment testing procedures.
- Troubleshooting communication equipment faults.
- Maintenance documentation and operational records.
- GMDSS logbooks and reporting requirements.
- Best practices for maintaining communication readiness.

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A graphic illustration of a chessboard with several chess pieces. A large gold king piece is prominent in the foreground, with a silver pawn and a silver knight behind it. The board is checkered, and there are concentric circles in the background.

Day 5: Integrated GMDSS Operations, Compliance & Professional Competence

- Integrated operation of terrestrial and satellite communication systems.
- Communication management during emergency situations.
- International operational procedures and communication protocols.
- Compliance with IMO, SOLAS, and STCW requirements.
- Operational readiness for General Operator's Certificate GOC.
- Operational readiness for Restricted Operator's Certificate ROC.
- Review of GMDSS operational procedures.
- Comprehensive knowledge assessment and course review.

Why Attend This Course: Wins & Losses!

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System GMDSS.
- Strengthen operational knowledge of modern maritime communication systems.
- Improve competence in distress, urgency, safety, and routine communications.
- Enhance compliance with IMO, SOLAS, and STCW requirements.
- Build confidence in operating satellite and terrestrial communication equipment.
- Improve Search and Rescue SAR communication coordination.
- Strengthen equipment operational readiness and maintenance practices.
- Prepare for General Operator's Certificate GOC and Restricted Operator's Certificate ROC requirements.
- Enhance professional competence within the international maritime industry.
- Improve communication efficiency and maritime safety awareness.

Conclusion

The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System GMDSS forms the foundation of modern maritime communication, ensuring that vessels can exchange critical distress, safety, and operational information efficiently under all operating conditions. Effective implementation of GMDSS procedures contributes significantly to protecting lives, safeguarding marine assets, supporting international Search and Rescue operations, and maintaining compliance with global maritime regulations.

This course provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of GMDSS communication systems, regulatory requirements, radio communications, satellite services, maritime safety information, emergency procedures, equipment operation, maintenance practices, and operational readiness. By combining technical knowledge with internationally recognized operational standards, participants will strengthen their ability to manage maritime communications safely, efficiently, and in accordance with the requirements of IMO, SOLAS, and STCW, while enhancing professional competence within the global maritime industry.

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A graphic illustration of a chessboard with several chess pieces. A large gold king piece is prominent in the foreground, with a silver pawn and a gold pawn nearby. The background shows concentric circles emanating from behind the pieces, suggesting a signal or broadcast.