

SRC (Short Range Certificate) — internationally recognised VHF marine radio certificate, which is also a prerequisite for higher sailing certificates within the ISSA system.

## WHAT IS THE SRC?

The SRC is the internationally valid radio operator's certificate for VHF marine radio on pleasure craft and coastal vessels. It authorises the holder to operate ship's marine radio equipment in the VHF band and forms part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). Typical course duration: 1 day.

## PREREQUISITES & REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum age – 16 years
- No prior knowledge required
- Basic English recommended (examination partly in English)

## THEORETICAL CONTENT



### GMDSS – GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM

- Structure & organisation of GMDSS
- Sea areas A1-A4 & their radio coverage
- Search & rescue organisation (SAR)
- Maritime Safety Information (MSI) & NAVTEX

### VHF BASICS & CHANNELS

- VHF frequencies & channel plan
- Channel usage (channel 16, 70, and others)
- Dual-watch function & continuous watch
- Range & propagation conditions

### DIGITAL SELECTIVE CALLING (DSC)

- Structure & function of the DSC system
- MMSI number (Maritime Mobile Service Identity)
- Distress, urgency & routine calls via DSC
- Acknowledgement & cancellation of DSC alarms
- GPS interface & position transmission

### EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

- MAYDAY procedure (distress call)
- PAN-PAN procedure (urgency call)
- SÉCURITÉ procedure (safety call)
- Relaying & forwarding distress messages
- Cancelling false alarms

### COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES & LANGUAGE

- International phonetic alphabet (Alpha-Zulu)
- IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases
- Procedure words (OVER, OUT, ROGER, MAYDAY RELAY, etc.)
- Routine traffic with coast & shore radio stations
- Radio secrecy & prohibition on interception

### LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- National & international radio regulations
- Ship radio licence & operator licence requirement
- Radio operating obligations & watch frequencies
- Radio log & recording obligations

### EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

- Fixed & portable VHF radios
- EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) & SART (Search and Rescue Transponder)
- AIS basics
- Antennas, power supply & emergency power connection

## PRACTICAL CONTENT

All practical exercises are carried out on DSC-VHF radio equipment and simulators.

### MANDATORY EXERCISES (ALL MUST BE MASTERED)

- Set up DSC controller & enter MMSI
- Send a DSC distress alert
- Send acknowledgement of a received DSC distress call
- Transmit a MAYDAY distress message by radiotelephony
- Relay a distress alert from another vessel (MAYDAY RELAY)
- Terminate distress traffic & resume normal working
- Correctly cancel & report a false alarm
- Transmit an urgency call & message (PAN-PAN)
- Transmit a safety call & message (SÉCURITÉ)

### ADDITIONAL MANDATORY SKILLS

- Retrieve & acknowledge received DSC messages from memory
- Impose & lift radio silence
- Conduct routine calls to coast radio stations
- Carry out channel changes on instruction
- Set & check equipment parameters

## EXAMINATION

### THEORETICAL PART (WRITTEN)

Written multiple-choice questionnaire with 24 questions covering GMDSS, DSC, channels, emergency procedures, regulations and equipment.

### LANGUAGE PART

Receiving and reproducing distress, urgency and safety messages in English — translation English–German and German–English using the phonetic alphabet.

### PRACTICAL PART

Scenario exercises on DSC-VHF radio equipment — sending and receiving distress alerts, urgency and safety traffic, routine calls and equipment handling. At least the mandatory tasks must be performed confidently; on a second attempt certain sub-tasks are prescribed.

### ENTITLEMENT UPON PASSING

- Operation of VHF marine radio equipment (fixed & portable) on pleasure craft
- Participation in GMDSS maritime radio traffic
- Valid worldwide & prerequisite for ISSA Offshore Skipper & Master of Yacht



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