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JUL 19 2002

CAPT Jack Fuechsel, U.S.C.G. (Ret.)
Executive Director
U.S. GMDSS Implementation Task Force
7425 Elgar Street
Springfield, VA 22151

Dear CAPT Fuechsel:

Our staff at the U. S. Coast Guard National Maritime Center has evaluated the 21-hour U. S. Model Course for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Restricted Operators Certificate (ROC) Training course.

The U. S. Coast Guard is pleased to announce the approval of the 21-hour GMDSS ROC Model Training Course. The U.S. GMDSS Implementation Task Force (Task Force) recommended a training program of not less than 21-hours in length in order to achieve the competencies required for VHF by Table A-IV/2 of the Seafarer's Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping Code (STCW Code). The Coast Guard has approved this program with minor editorial changes. Any school requesting GMDSS ROC Course approval should be guided by the attached course framework, learning objectives and performance criteria to expedite course approval. The following comments are offered:

1. The 21-hour course length represents a minimum for an approved GMDSS ROC course to meet the goals of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW), as amended. A specific number of hours for each learning objective have not been specified. The learning objectives with hours, labeled Part B, Enclosure 2, listing recommended times, is for guidance only. Variations in instructional technique, student ability and equipment may demand that each program make adjustments to achieve the learning objectives.
2. Each school wishing to submit a GMDSS course for U.S. Coast Guard approval should follow the format proscribed in Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular NVIC (5-95), as well as Chapter 7, Section 7.d of Volume III of the *Marine Safety Manual*, with the following exceptions. If schools offering the attached GMDSS ROC course state that they will offer the GMDSS Task Force Course as approved in this letter, and agree to use the data bank of attached questions in the construction of the theoretical examination, they will not have to submit course documentation for the following:
 - a) U. S. Model Course learning objectives with hours;
 - b) Detailed learning objectives;
 - c) Table A-IV/2, equipment operation competencies for VHF-DSC; and,
 - d) Data bank of written test questions.
3. The course approval submission should contain a course schedule, a course framework, resumes of instructors stating their qualifications in accordance with NVIC (6-97), a description of the facility, teaching aids, any equipment or simulators used in the course,

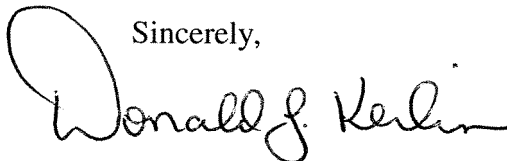
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completed lesson plans, and the performance measures for assessment of the practical demonstrations of the performance competencies.

4. Instructors in any approved GMDSS Course should make full use of the content, textbooks, and course materials identified in the IMO Model Course for General Operators Certificate (GOC) as appropriate for the ROC Course.
5. Submissions of a GMDSS ROC Course for the Coast Guard approval should be forwarded directly to the National Maritime Center with a copy of the cover letter to the local Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection.
6. Practical training should be undertaken in small groups of not more than 6 students per instructor to allow sufficient interaction with GMDSS equipment or simulators. There must be sufficient equipment or simulators to train at least two practical training groups at once in classes with more than six students.
7. There should be no more than 12 students per instructor during classroom instruction in short intensive programs or 30 students per instructor in extended programs such as those at a maritime academy.
8. Any time devoted to teaching questions and answers or other matters related to an FCC examination, shall not be included in calculating the required 21-hours of instruction. The National Maritime Center does not include lunch hours or administrative time in the calculation of contact hours.
9. Any questions concerning the GMDSS ROC course approval process should be directed to the Examination and Course Approval Branch of the National Maritime Center (NMC-4B) at 202-493-1025.

Sincerely,



DONALD J. KERLIN
Deputy Director
U.S.C.G. National Maritime Center
By direction of the Commanding Officer

- Encl: (1) Part A- GMDSS ROC Course Framework
(2) Part B- GMDSS ROC Learning Objectives with Hours
(3) Part C- GMDSS ROC Detailed Learning Objectives
(4) Table A-IV/2 Guidelines for Assessment, Specification of Minimum Standards of Competence in GMDSS ROC for DSC-VHF Radio
(5) GMDSS ROC Lesson Plan Form
(6) STCW – GMDSS ROC Test Pool, Questions & Answers

Copy: All RECs