

RYA VHF SRC COURSE SYLLABUS

The aim of this course is to prepare students for the use of Maritime VHF for routine and emergency procedures. This is the only legally required course for leisure boaters operating in UK waters.

1. The general principles and basic features of the maritime mobile service relevant to vessels NOT subject to a compulsory fit under the SOLAS convention:

- Types of communication of the maritime mobile service
- Types of station in the maritime mobile service
- Elementary knowledge of radio frequencies and channels appropriate to the VHF maritime mobile band
- Functionality of ship station equipment

2. Detailed working knowledge of radio equipment:

- Radiotelephone channels
- Basic controls and usage
- Portable two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus
- Maritime VHF antennas
- Purpose and use of Digital Selective Calling (DSC) facilities
- Types of Call
- The Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number system
- Call categorisation and priority (eg. Mayday)
- Call telecommand and traffic information
- VHF DSC facilities and usage

3. Operational procedures of the GMDSS and detailed practical operation of GMDSS subsystems and equipment.

- Search and rescue (SAR) procedures in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)
- Distress, urgency and safety communication procedures in the GMDSS
- Protection of distress frequencies
- Maritime Safety Information
- Alerting and locating signals
- Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs)
- Search and Rescue Radar Transponder (SART)

4. Operational Procedures and regulations for VHF radiotelephone communications:

- Ability to exchange communications relevant to the safety of life at sea
- Distress communications
- Urgency communications
- Safety communications
- Reception of MSI by VHF radiotelephone
- Awareness of the existence and use of the IMO Standard Marine Navigational Vocabulary
- Use of international phonetic alphabet
- Regulations, Obligatory procedures and practices
- Practical and theoretical knowledge of radiotelephone call procedures
- Traffic charges
- Practical traffic routines

Note: This is an abbreviated Course Syllabus