

Radio Licensing



Introduction

Many clubs use radios to communicate between coaches and sometimes with crews. Some radios operate on frequencies for which licences and certificates of competence are not required. However both a Ships Portable Radio Licence for the club and a Short Range Certificate of Competence for each operator is required when using Marine Mobile Band VHF radios.

What is a Ships Portable Radio Licence?

This is a permit to operate the radio equipment. The good news is that the Ships Portable Radio Licence is free, if you apply online, (£20 for postal applications). There is no expiry date, it lasts for ever. There is more information [here](#).

Applications should be made online using the Ofcom portal available [here](#). Clubs can register as an organisation so each club would only need one licence.

What is a Short Range Certificate?

Each operator must hold at least a Short Range Certificate, this requires going on a course and passing an exam. The course can be done online, there is more information [here](#) <http://www.rya.org.uk/courses-training/courses/specialist/Pages/online-src-course-taster.aspx>.

The RYA [website](#) can be used to find course providers and many can be found by googling "VHF short range certificate". These courses are commonly available.

Many training providers provide this training for a fee. The cost is about £50 to £100 per person. There is an additional charge of £60 (payable to the RYA) for the exam and the issue of the VHF/SRC Operators Licence.

In the Ships Licence Terms and Conditions, under Radio Equipment Use, it says:

10. The Licensee must ensure that the radio equipment is used only by persons:
 - a) who have been authorised by the Licensee to do so and who have been made aware of, and comply with, the terms of the Licence; and
 - b) who hold, or are under the direct personal supervision of a person who holds a relevant Maritime Radio Operator's Certificate of Competence and valid Authority to Operate.
11. Clause 10 (b) shall not apply to persons using channels M (157.850 MHz) and M2 (161.425 MHz).
12. Notwithstanding the terms set out in Clause 10 above, in the event of an emergency where there is a risk to life, the radio equipment may be used by any person to summon assistance.

Legal Requirements

The relevant regulation is the

The Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006

Further Information

For further information

Ship Radio Licence Terms and conditions at <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence/radiocommunication-licences/ships-radio/ship-radio-terms-conditions>

Ofcom licence portal <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence/radiocommunication-licences/online-licensing-service>.

Information on online courses at <http://www.rya.org.uk/courses-training/courses/specialist/Pages/online-src-course-taster.aspx>

RYA website www.rya.org.uk