

Radio Licence Training

Australian regulations require operators of VHF and MF/HF marine radios to have a licence, known as a Certificate of Proficiency. Once obtained the qualification is perpetual.

On satisfactory completion of a multiple-choice written test, and a practical test, the Office of Maritime Communications, Australian Maritime College issues these certificates on behalf of AMSA, Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

If only VHF marine radios are to be used, then a SROCP, Short Range Operators Certificate of Proficiency is sufficient.

If MF/HF marine radios are to be used, then a LROCP, Long Range Operators Certificate of Proficiency is required. This also covers the use of VHF radios.

For each type of qualification, the AMC produce a handbook, which can be viewed on -line Or hard copy ordered from them. The handbook contains all of the theory required for the theory exam.

The exams are set and marked online by the Australian Maritime College.

The AMC can authorise individuals as “Invigilators” to be able to administer and supervise exams.

Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie has members who are authorised as “Invigilators” to be able to conduct practical exams and supervise the theory exams on behalf of the Australian Maritime College (AMC).

SROCP courses are held several times per year. LROCP courses can be arranged on enquiry.

The SROCP requires demonstration of the following skills:

- Demonstrate a practical knowledge of GMDSS sub-systems and equipment which is appropriate to vessels operating in Australian waters on which a radio installation is not compulsory under international agreements. Specifically, VHF radio telephony equipment with digital selective calling (DSC) facilities, and emergency position indicating radio beacons of the 406 MHz and 121.5/243 type.
- Demonstrate an ability to use VHF radio telephony and digital selective calling (DSC) operating procedures, particularly those relating to distress, urgency and safety.
- Demonstrate an understanding of simple maintenance practices required to keep the marine radio equipment specified in (1) in good working order, including the repair of minor faults.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the regulations applicable to ship stations equipped with VHF radio telephony and digital selective calling facilities.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the Australian marine search and rescue system.
- Demonstrate a practical knowledge of marine radio operations and equipment.

Suggested Procedure:

Decide whether a Short Range (VHF) or Long Range (HF) qualification is needed.

Go to the Office of Maritime Communications website to help you decide.

<https://www.amc.edu.au/industry/omc/handbooks-and-revision-questions>

There are a couple of ways we can offer you support:

MODE 1 – Private study

You study all the course material by purchasing the Radio Handbook online or viewing it free online (using the link above).

There are practice questions online that are used in the written component of the exam, which MRLM is authorised to administer.

You are also required to do a practical exam. We administer the practical exam using our training radios.

In the practical exam you are required to:

- Correctly identify components of a radio (appropriate to the qualification) and show its correct operation.
- Correctly log in with a Marine Rescue Base
- Correctly make a Mayday emergency call and send a DSC alert.
- When you are ready and confident you can let us know and we will confirm the exam date.

MODE 2. Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie Training course

Attend our 2 day workshop and exam weekend.

Day 1 is devoted to developing an understanding of the theory and practising the required radio calls

- Demonstrate a practical knowledge of GMDSS sub-systems and equipment which is appropriate
- Day 2 is devoted to the conduct of the practical and theory exams. There is usually a staggered arrival time for the practical exam and all candidates sit the online theory exam at the same time.

COSTS

MODE 1: Australian Maritime College application fee **\$97.90** for SROCP or LROCP

MRLM fee **\$100**

MODE 2: Australian Maritime College application fee: **\$97.90** for SROCP or LROCP

MRLM Training course **\$200** (SROCP) or **\$250** (LROCP)

Handbooks are optional and can be purchased from the Australian Maritime College online.

Note: The pass rate for the theory exam is 70% and the application fee must be paid on each attempt.

The pass rate for the practical exam is 100%

