

Marine VHF Radio Short Range Certificate

Course Outline

The Short Range Certificate

The RYA VHF Radio Course provides training and examination for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Short Range Certificate (SRC). It is commonly just called the Marine VHF Licence. You can choose to attend a one-day classroom course and assessment or an on-line course with a separate assessment. In both cases the course will teach you marine VHF radio procedures including voice procedures and use of the Digital Selective Calling (DSC) system. In the classroom course you will use real radio equipment networked in a simulator. You will be shown how to operate the various radios, and have the opportunity to practice transmitting voice messages and DSC messages and alerts. Special emphasis is given to distress procedures and you will learn how to send a 'Mayday'. In the on-line version you can study at home using on-screen simulation of radio equipment on a pc or Ipad.

This is a very interesting course that gives you an insight into marine radio procedures and also the organisation of international distress and safety systems. It is essential to complete the course (classroom or on-line) and then pass a written, oral and practical examination to obtain the licence (properly called the Short Range Certificate). Possession of the certificate is a legal requirement if you want to operate a Marine VHF set and the knowledge could help to save lives in an emergency. This is a must for all skippers and a very good idea for crews too.

Format Options

Either:

One Day Classroom Course at Chatham (0900 to 1630)

Or:

Online Course (Enrolled on the RYA Interactive website through Elite Sailing)

Plus the Assessment – Either:

Immediately following the classroom course (1630 – 1830)

No Admin fee for the SRC Assessment if you have purchased or completed an RYA VHF course with Elite Sailing.

SRC Assessment only: Admin charge of £40 (for those that have completed the course with an alternative training centre)

One-Day Classroom Course

If you choose a classroom course you can select a specific date from the list on this website and telephone or email to request a booking. We will send you a course pack comprising the RYA VHF Handbook (either hard copy or e-

book – see below) and guidance for you to complete about 3 hours of pre-course study using the handbook. The course will then comprise about 8 hours of training and the assessment all on the same day. It is quite a long day but everything is completed in one package and you have the benefit of meeting other sailors and using real radio hardware. Prior to the assessment you will need to complete on-line payment of the assessment and licence fee of £70 to the RYA and download the assessment application form. See details of this process below. If you are successful, the assessor will take your application form, attach a report form and the centre will send this to the RYA for issue of the licence.

Online Course

If you choose the on-line course, we will send you the course pack comprising the RYA VHF Handbook (either hard copy or e-book – see below). We will also enrol you on the RYA Interactive training website and send you the URL and login details. You will then be able to run the course at home using either a pc or Ipad. The course includes self-tests so you can judge your progress and a final test. If you are successful at the test you can download a certificate. When you have completed the course and have the On-line course certificate you can contact us to book into an SRC assessment session. In some cases you may be able to book into a scheduled session at the end of a classroom course. Alternatively we may be able to arrange a special assessment on a date/time to suit you. If you are attending another classroom course at Chatham we may be able to arrange an SRC assessment just before or just afterwards. In all cases, prior to the assessment you will need to complete on-line payment of the assessment and licence fee of £60 to the RYA and download the assessment application form. See details of the assessment process below. If you are successful, the assessor will take your application form, attach a report form and the centre will send this to the RYA for issue of the licence.

SRC Course Packs – Books or E-books

The standard course packs we provide for both the classroom and on-line courses include the RYA VHF Handbook which is a traditional printed book. Alternatively, we can send you an 'E-pack' in which the printed book is replaced by a voucher with a redemption code allowing you to download an 'e-book' version. E-Books are enhanced digital versions of RYA printed books and contain animations, video and interactive tools to help illustrate the key points and skills. They can be stored and viewed on a Windows PC or Mac or on an IOS or Android Tablet or smartphone or on a Kindle Fire tablet. The price of the hard copy and E-packs is the same and is built into the course fees. Before deciding on an E-pack you should make sure that your device will work with the RYA Books App. You can do this by downloading the App via this link: <http://www.rya.org.uk/go/app>. When you make a booking please advise whether you want the standard pack or the E-pack. In any event the office may ask you to confirm which pack you want.

The SRC Assessment

The SRC assessment will take the form of a short written test followed by a short oral/practical test of your ability to perform basic voice and DSC procedures and operate the radio hardware. This will require between 30 and 50 minutes and has to be done by an assessor who is not the same person as the classroom instructor. If you opt for the classroom course, the assessment will normally be completed at the end of the training day (but it could possibly be deferred until a later assessment session). If you opt for the On-line course you will have to book to attend an assessment session. See below for details of the assessment process.

If you have followed the course you will find the test very simple. Anyone with reading or writing difficulties can ask the instructor to arrange a test with oral assistance. When the test is complete the assessor will advise you of the result and, if you pass, forward your licence application to the RYA. If you fail (hopefully unlikely) the assessor will advise you what you need to do to improve and invite you to re-attend for another assessment. In our experience people who fail have simply not done the required amount of pre-course study. On receipt of your licence application with the assessor's endorsement, the RYA will issue the SRC. Along with the application you will need to supply a recent passport photograph. The licence lasts for life.

Previous Knowledge/Experience

When you book we will send you a student pack including RYA handbook and study guide. You will need to complete about 3 hours of study before the classroom course. This effort is included in the On-line course.

Locations

- Chatham, Kent. (One day classroom courses and assessment sessions)
- Online Course with Assessment at Chatham

Age

16 years for licence but anyone can complete the course

Achievement (certificate awarded and ability after the course)

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Applying for the SRC Assessment

1. Book a date for your assessment. If you have booked the VHF/SRC classroom course the assessment will already be booked – usually on the same day. If you are doing the on-line course via Elite Sailing you need to contact the Elite Sailing Office to book an assessment. If you are doing the VHF assessment via another training centre you can still book an assessment with Elite Sailing but you will have to pay an additional assessment fee.
2. Prior to the date of your assessment you need to complete an online application and payment via the RYA website. Here is the procedure: Go to: <https://www.rya.org.uk/training/certificates-of-competence/exam-payments-service>. You will be asked to login to your RYA account. If you don't have an account you can just register. Follow the instructions on the RYA pages.

Make sure that you download the application form, print it and bring it along to your assessment.

Documentation

You must bring the following items to your assessment:

A printed SRC Exam Application Form

A recent passport photograph cropped to size, with your full name written on the back.

