

MRCC Solent
44a Marine Parade West
Lee-on-Solent
Hampshire
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Dear Sir

CG66 - SAFETY IDENTIFICATION SCHEME

Thank you for joining the HM Coastguard's Safety Identification Scheme also known as "CG66 Scheme". Safety is always our first concern and your membership of this scheme could help us to help you.

The details of your vessel are held on a National database and administered by your local Coastguard station. **This information is only used in Search and Rescue (SAR) Operations.** The details of your vessel remain valid for a 2 year period, if your vessels details are not updated within a 2 year period then you will be sent a reminder. Failure to update your vessels details will result in your vessels details being archived as unconfirmed data, which could result in us being misled during a SAR incident.

Updates can be done at any time online. However if you are unable to do it online then you could notify us by using a "Shore Contact Card / Change of Detail Card", by letter, hard copy CG66 form or by phone.

Please inform us if you sell your vessel, so that your details can be removed from our database.

Any problems with your CG66 do not hesitate in contacting us.

Regards
CG66 co-ordinator
MRCC Solent

Radio

Ships' radio is used for the safe navigation of vessels and for making distress calls in emergency situations. It enables communication with coast stations, port/harbour authorities and with other vessels.

Ship Radio Licence:

All vessels fitted with radio equipment require a license providing radio is to be used on board.

Why Ship Radio Equipment needs to be Licenced:

It is important to have a radio licence for several reasons:

1. Safety of life. Ofcom sends data collected from the form to the MCA and ITU for Search and Rescue purposes only. The data is used if you're in danger.
2. To ensure interference cases can be quickly and efficiently dealt with.
3. Issue of call signs and MMSI numbers

Ships Radio Equipment includes:

MF (medium frequency), VHF (very high frequency), HF (high frequency), and UHF (ultra high frequency) radio equipment.

It can also include satellite communications equipment, radar equipment, Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) and Search and Rescue Transponders (SARTs).

Portable Handheld Radios:

If you wish to use a handheld radio only then you will be required to apply for a Ship Portable Radio licence. Instead of a call sign (applicable to vessels) you will be provided with what is known as a T-number which will enable you to use your portable radio on board any vessel.

If you own a vessel and you have radio equipment that is fixed to the vessel you will need to apply for a Ship Radio licence. If you intend to use a handheld radio as well as fixed radio equipment on board your vessel, this

can be registered under the same Ship Radio licence application as the fixed equipment but be advised that it will be licensed for use on this vessel alone.

All Hand-Held VHF radios should be:

- easy to operate;
- able to withstand drops on a hard surface from at least 1 metre;
- watertight to a depth of 1 metre for at least 5 minutes;
- highly visible (yellow/orange);
- capable of operation on channel 16 and at least one additional channel, preferably channel 67;
- provided with a manual volume control; and
- provided with a squelch (mute) control).

Where to apply for a Licence:

A radio licence can be applied for via Ofcom, this can be done on line, free of charge at www.ofcom.org.uk then follow the relevant links.

Otherwise you can contact them via the following:

Amateur and Maritime Team
Ofcom Licensing Centre,
PO Box 56373,
London,
SE1 9SZ

Telephone: 0300 123 3333 or 020 7981 3040 - Mon to Fri 0900 to 1700

Fax: 020 7981 3235

Textphone: 0300 123 2024 or 020 7981 3043 - Please note that these numbers only work with special equipment used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

E-mail: licensingcentre@ofcom.org.uk

Licensing ensures that radio equipment used on board ships does not cause undue interference to other communications equipment and is operated by competent persons.

Failure to hold a valid licence is a criminal offence and Ofcom's enforcement team can impose on-the-spot fines. The maximum penalty on conviction is a £5,000 fine and/or a six month prison sentence. Those convicted may also be ordered to forfeit any radio apparatus used illegally.

Competent Radio Operator:

All owners should be trained to operate their maritime radio effectively. This ensures that you have the necessary procedures to use the radio in the event of an emergency or instruct someone else under your supervision to do so. You are also less likely to interfere with the distress / urgency calls from other users.

Details of courses for VHF Short range Certificate (SRC) contact the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) at:

RYA House, Ensign Way, Hamble, Southampton, SO31 4YA

Tel: 02380 604100 / 0845345017

Fax: 02380 604299

Web: www.rya.org.uk

Mobile Cellular Telephones:

Mobile cellular telephones appear to offer a low cost alternative to marine band VHF. However, if you were in distress they have several significant weaknesses:

- You can only ring one number (e.g. Coastguard), therefore other vessels in the vicinity that would otherwise receive a radio call will be unaware of your situation and therefore unable to offer assistance;
- If you are on the fringe of a cell, you can very easily lose contact;
- Lifeboats and helicopters are equipped with direction finding equipment that can home onto your radio signal. This will provide them with a bearing to assist in locating you; however, they can not obtain the bearing from cellular signals.

Radio Operations with Solent Coastguards Area:

Due to the volume of traffic on VHF CH16, Solent Coastguard also maintains a listening watch on VHF channel 67 at all times, Vessels are encouraged to carry out radio checks and routine traffic directly on this channel. Solent Coastguard is the only Station that maintains a listening watch on channel 67.

Passage details:

All Coastguard stations are happy to take a vessels passage report, this can be done by calling on channel 16, and you will be directed to a working channel where you can pass passage details. Secondly pass your passage details to your shore contact, so that if necessary they can contact us.

To keep handy by the Radio:

The vessels: NAME (spelt phonetically if possible, to help others)
CALL SIGN & MMSI Number

A copy of the :

“Emergency Radio Procedures”

“Radio Medical Advice”

Both of which have been enclosed.